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SIXTEENTH REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTORS

APPOINTED,

UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT 5 & 6 WILL. IV. c. 38,

TO VISIT THE DIFFERENT

PRISONS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

II.—NORTHERN AND EASTERN DISTRICT.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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1851.

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II.

SIXTEENTH REPORT ON THE PRISONS IN THE NORTHERN AND EASTERN DISTRICT.

TO THE RIGHT HON. SIR GEORGE GREY, BART.

Secretary of State for the Home Department.

SIR, Hampstead, February 18, 1851.

I HAVE the honour to present my Sixteenth Annual Report as Inspector of Prisons; this Report being my fourth since I had charge of an English district, and my second since the last arrangement. The present Report is for the year 1850.

I have visited during the year every prison of large, or even of considerable size, within my district, and many also of the smallest, including some of the lock-up houses. Some of the larger prisons I have visited several times. Prisons visited.

I am happy to be able to report that considerable improvements have been made, during the last year, in many of the prisons. Improvements during last year.

In the prisons at the following towns increased provision has been made either for the individual separation of the inmates, or for their better classification and supervision; in some cases for all three objects:—Beverley, Bury St. Edmunds, Cambridge (borough prison), Chester (county prison), Ely, Hull, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Northallerton, Norwich (county prison), Salford, Scarborough, Walsingham, and Wisbech. Increased provision for separation, classification, and supervision.

In some instances, especially in those of the prisons at Beverley, Norwich, and Salford, the alterations have been chiefly made by the prisoners themselves; an arrangement which has caused a great saving of expense, and has, at the same time, benefited the prisoners by supplying them with useful and instructive employment.

In my last Report I spoke of the importance of having separate prisons for females, and referred particularly to the well-conducted prison at Wymondham, in Norfolk, Increased application of principle of complete separation of sexes.

which is appropriated solely to females, and is exclusively under female management. Although, during the last year, there has been no new instance of a prison being applied to the reception of females alone, the principle in view has been adopted by the entire withdrawal of females from the county prison at Cambridge, and from the prison at Ely, and by providing for the withdrawal in a short time of all the females from the house of correction at Preston; the females in each case being added to those in some other prison where there was room for them. Thus, the number of prisons in the district where there are prisoners of both sexes has been reduced by three; and in one instance (that of Lancaster Castle, to which the female prisoners from Preston are to be sent) arrangements have been made for having the whole body of female prisoners more completely separated from the male prisoners than was formerly the case with the smaller number of females belonging to Lancaster itself; and, in fact, for the two sexes to occupy almost two distinct prisons.

Where artificial light and early rising have been introduced.

Artificial light, together, in some cases, with the practice of early rising, has been introduced, to a greater or less extent, in the course of the year, into the prisons at Beverley, Bury St. Edmunds, Chester (city prison), Hull, Huntingdon, King's Lynn, Northallerton, Ripon, and Walsingham.

Where useful work has been introduced or extended.

Useful work has been introduced or extended in the prisons at Bury St. Edmunds, Cambridge (both the county and borough prisons), Derby, Ely, Grantham, Hull, Ipswich (both county and borough prisons), King's Lynn, Kirton-Lindsey, Lancaster, Lincoln (county prison), Nottingham (county prison), Norwich (county prison), Scarborough, Spalding, Spilsby, Wakefield, Walsingham, Wisbech, and York (county prison).

In several of the foregoing instances the quantity of useful work, or indeed of work of any kind, is still very small; nevertheless, in each case, something at least has been effected, and in some the improvement is considerable.

Twine-making.

At the prison at Wakefield twine-making has lately been introduced, and, so far as the experiment has been carried, this kind of labour appears to be very suitable

for many prisoners. The employment is easily learnt—is carried on in the open air—furnishes a great deal of bodily exercise (superseding the necessity for walking in airing-yards), and the apparatus is inexpensive. I recommended its introduction into Wakefield prison on the suggestion of Mr. Thornton, a magistrate of Birmingham, who had been instrumental in introducing it at the borough prison of that town.

Prisons now most favourably distinguished in work department.

The prisons in my district now most favourably distinguished in the work department are those at Beverley, Chester (county prison), Derby, Knutsford, Leeds, Preston, Salford, Wakefield, Walsingham, and Wymondham.

The efforts to introduce useful labour have been in accordance with the aphorism of the great Howard, "Make men diligent, and they will be honest."

Increased provision for instruction in reading and writing.

A provision for instruction in reading and writing has been made or enlarged during the year at the prisons at Beverley, Grantham, Ipswich (county prison), King's Lynn, Kirton-Lindsey, Norwich (county prison), Stamford, Southwell, Walsingham, and Wymondham.

At the borough prison at Liverpool efficient assistance in teaching had been given by two female prisoners, acting under the superintendence of the schoolmistress. But this, as I was sorry to be obliged to point out, was contrary to law. Not only might the prison funds be often economized by permitting such assistance, but I cannot help thinking that much good might be done to the prisoners who gave it; as it brings into action one of the most improving tendencies—that arising from the feeling of being useful to others. Great care would of course be necessary in the selection of prisoners so to be employed; but with intelligent superintendence, there would be but little difficulty in that respect.

Other improvements.

At many of the prisons there have been other improvements of different kinds; sometimes in the removal of ill-qualified officers, and in others in the establishment of a more efficient medical superintendence, or of the practice of private visitation by the Chaplain, or in the general observance of the rules of the prison, or in the warming, ventilation, or drainage, or in the provision for a proper audit of the accounts. Finally, during the course of the year a new and comparatively well-conducted prison has

been opened (at Manchester), and an old and ill-built prison (that at Boston) has been abandoned.

In many other cases than those enumerated prisons might be advantageously used for inmates of one sex alone, and in many others they might be wholly abandoned.

Prisons which, with slight modification of the law, might be appropriated to one sex alone.

The following are cases in which, with a slight modification of the law (to enlarge the power of contracting for the reception of prisoners), prisons in my district might be appropriated to one sex; a change that would be attended with the improvement of the discipline, the removal of the evils mentioned in my Fifteenth Report (page xxviii.), and in most cases with a saving of expense.

1. Chester City Prison.—This prison might be used exclusively for females, and such prisoners might be withdrawn from the county prisons at Chester and Knutsford.

2. Lincoln City Prison.—This prison also might be used for females alone, and such prisoners might be withdrawn from the county prison at Lincoln and from the prisons at Kirton-Lindsey and Falkingham.

3. Prisons at Louth and Spilsby.—Females might be withdrawn from these prisons and sent to the prison at Spalding.

4. City Prison at Norwich and County Prison at Walsingham.—Females might be withdrawn from these prisons and sent to the females' prison at Wymondham. The county might contract to send some male prisoners to the city prison at Norwich.

5. Borough Prison at Nottingham.—Females might be withdrawn from this prison and sent to the prison at Southwell, and in place of them the county might send to the borough prison at Nottingham such male prisoners as are now sent to the county prison there.

6. Ipswich Borough Prison.—This prison might be united to the county prison, of which it appears originally to have formed part. The advantages of the union in this case are noticed at page 58.

7. The county prison at York might be discontinued for criminal prisoners except at the time of the assizes. The reasons of this measure are given at page 64 of my present Report.

Prisons which might be wholly abandoned.

If the modification already referred to were made in the law, the following prisons might, in my opinion, be at once wholly given up; to the great improvement of prison discipline and to a great saving of expense:—The borough prisons at Grantham, Great Grimsby, and Stamford, in Lincolnshire; the borough prisons at Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn, and Thetford, in Norfolk; the county prisons at Nottingham and at Oakham; the county prison at Beccles, in Suffolk; and the prisons at Doncaster, Halifax (the debtors' prison for the manor of Wakefield), Richmond, Ripon, Scarborough, and Sheffield, in Yorkshire.

If a few well-constructed large prisons, such as I spoke of in my last Report, were built in accessible and convenient situations, many others of the existing prisons in my district might with great advantage be abandoned.

Difficulty of guarding against escapes of prisoners employed in agriculture over-estimated.

As regards employment of prisoners in agriculture and other out-door pursuits, the difficulty of guarding against escapes appears to have been greatly over-estimated. In my last Report I gave the evidence of the governor and surgeon of the prison at Kirton-Lindsey on this subject; and in my present Report I beg to refer to that of the governors of the prisons at Bury St. Edmunds and Beverley.

Many prisons still unprovided with artificial light, and where in mid-winter the inmates pass most of their time in bed.

Although I have been able to mention several cases in which artificial light has been introduced during the last year, and some in which a practice of early rising has been established, there is still a large number of prisons which are wholly unprovided in this respect, and where, in mid-winter, the inmates pass more than fourteen hours out of the twenty-four in bed.

Insecurity arising from use of cast-iron frames to cell windows.

I have more than once had occasion to remark on the insecurity of prisons where the cell-windows are guarded only by a frame of cast-iron. During the last year two men have escaped from the prison at Leeds, and one from the prison at Wakefield, in consequence of this defect.

Ventilation.

I have sometimes recommended the use of manual labour (of which there is generally a superabundance in prisons) in effecting the ventilation, instead of depending on a draught produced by means of heat, which, besides

causing an expense, is subject to vicissitudes occasioned by variations in the wind and in the external temperature; so much so, indeed, that in summer, when the greatest supply of fresh air is required, the ventilation produced by this means is most feeble.

Ventilation by mechanical power is strongly recommended by Dr. Arnott, and also by the General Board of Health, in their late Report on the Supply of Water to the Metropolis.

Improvement in borough prisons much impeded by state of law.

Improvement in borough prisons is much impeded, as I have before observed, by the state of the law, which virtually divides the power of management between the magistrates and town council, and thereby diminishes the feeling of responsibility.

Number of prisoners last year.

I am sorry to state that the decrease in the number of prisoners in my district, which was proceeding rapidly in the latter part of the year 1849, continued only in a slight degree during the last year, the average number of prisoners in 1850 having been 6019 instead of 6254 in 1849; and the whole number of commitments 42,113 against 42,485. Indeed, although there was this decrease during the year, the number of prisoners in confinement at the end of 1850 was considerably greater than at the end of 1849; the two numbers being 6887 and 6119 respectively.

Slight decrease as compared with previous year.

Increase in latter part of 1850.

As might be anticipated under such circumstances, there was a considerably greater number of commitments in the last quarter of 1850 than in either of the other quarters. The last being a winter quarter, it might be expected that there would be more prisoners in it than in either of the summer quarters; but there were considerably more than in the first quarter of the year, which is equally a winter quarter.

Increase partly explained by causes independent of increase of crime.

An increase in the average number of prisoners, though not in the number of commitments, would be explained to some extent by the growing tendency to substitute imprisonment for death or transportation.

Amount of crime greatly affected by other causes than prison discipline.

How greatly the number of prisoners in any case is affected by other causes than prison discipline is shown by the report on the city prison at Norwich, page 156,

where it will be seen that, at a prison conducted neither on the separate system nor silent system, where there is but little work, little instruction, and little supervision, where many of the prisoners congregate, to their general corruption, in idleness and unrestrained conversation, the number of prisoners during the last ten years has steadily decreased, and is now but little more than half what it was. Had such a result been obtained in a prison under some peculiar system, conclusions would probably have been drawn highly favourable to its effects.

Case of city prison at Norwich.

The danger of hastily adopting such conclusions, of which the above would form an example, is fully set forth in Mr. Francis Gray's able work on prison discipline in America; where it is shown that several essentially different systems of discipline have in turn been tried at different prisons, have been regarded for a time as quite successful, then found to be defective, and have ultimately been abandoned as failures.

Danger of has conclusions o effects of dif- ferent system prison discipl

As Mr. Gray justly remarks, the attention which is drawn to any great change, and the zeal of those who have originated it and who are anxious for its success, often produce good results, for a time, independently of any merit in the system itself; nay, sometimes in spite of great inherent errors.

With regard to the actual state of the discipline at Norwich city prison the chaplain states as follows:—

"I believe the prison ought to be regarded simply as a place of confinement for bad characters, but possessing little or nothing of a reformatory character. It is too frequently the school for vice. I am confident the prisoners being allowed that freedom of association which prevails in the day-rooms is most injurious to society, and, in reality, cruel towards those prisoners who are not so far advanced in crime as others. The system itself is vicious, and cannot but have an unhappy effect. I have usually observed greater recklessness of mind, and the countenance to assume an expression of hardened villany, which was not so clear upon a first interview as at subsequent periods. One man lamented that it was impossible for him to cultivate serious reflection, because his companions would immediately make him a laughing-stock; a cross which he had not faith to bear."—Page 157.

I should be sorry if by the foregoing remarks it were supposed for a moment that I undervalue the importance of prison discipline; or think it impossible, or even very difficult, to devise a good and effective system. Such a

conclusion would not only be at variance with the truth, but with the whole tenor of my long series of annual reports. But in giving full value to good prison discipline as a means of diminishing crime, it is necessary to keep in mind other operating powers, such as education, the general condition of the country, the poor-laws, police, and the state and administration of the criminal law.

alth of pri-
ers last year
usually good.

I am glad to state that during the last year the prisoners in my district have been unusually healthy; the average amount of mortality (counting, as usual, two removals or liberations from illness as equivalent to one death) having been less than one and a half per cent. on the average number of prisoners.

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alth.

Among the prisons distinguished last year for a small amount of mortality are those at Cambridge, Derby, Ely, Halifax, Lincoln (city prison), Louth, Spalding, Spilsby, Walsingham, Wymondham, Wisbech, and York (city prison).

rcise in air-
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made more
ve.

In order to render the exercise in the airing-grounds more effective, I some time ago recommended, at Wakefield, that, instead of always walking (and that frequently at a slow pace), the prisoners should alternately walk and run; and finding the plan succeed I have suggested its adoption in other prisons. With regard to its effect at the prison at Wakefield, Mr. Milner, the zealous, painstaking, and efficient medical attendant of the convict department in that prison, states as follows:—

"The alteration in the exercise mentioned in my last Report has been continued during the year, and the men now run and walk alternately. The change has been found to answer very well; very few of the prisoners are either unable or unwilling to run, and numbers of them have expressed to me their conviction of the greater benefit they have derived from the active exercise they get here, than from the slower exercise they had in the prisons from which they have been brought."

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ensed with.

While I would suggest that running be introduced wherever prisoners take exercise in airing-yards, I am of opinion that with a plentiful supply of out-of-door labour such exercise might to a great extent be dispensed with.

hine for
ding bread.

There is a simple machine, worked by hand, in use in making bread in the prison at Southwell, in Nottingham-

shire, which the governor said always secured that the dough should be properly kneaded.

Mode of boiling meat recommended by Baron Liebig.

The governor of the prison at Spilsby, in Lincolnshire, reports that he finds considerable economy by having the meat which is consumed in the prison boiled in the way recommended by Baron Liebig, and that the flavour of the meat is also improved.—(p. 101.)

Health seldom injured by sudden withdrawal of intoxicating drinks or opium.

On the question how far the sudden withdrawal of stimulants is likely to injure health, Mr. Fox, the surgeon at the prison at Derby, states as follows:—

"I have frequently been asked whether prisoners did not suffer in health by the sudden withdrawal of intoxicating drinks on their coming to prison. In reply, I can say that in all my experience (and I have attended the gaol 27 years) I never knew a single instance of any injury of the kind. The same remark applies to the withdrawal of opium."

Similar evidence appears in several of my previous Reports.

Tests of health.

As one means of testing the health of the prisoners I am in the habit of recommending that a record be kept of their weight; but it is sometimes objected that such a test is very delusive. As a sole criterion there can be no doubt that it is insufficient, and there are several others which may advantageously be added. Still, this index I hold to be an important one, and it is of a simple character, not liable to the errors arising from the want of a definite standard. In confirmation of the value of the test of weight, I quote the following evidence of Mr. Milner:—

"All the prisoners are weighed every month, and I consider the information obtained by this measure to be very valuable. In a great proportion of the cases in which a prisoner's health has failed in this prison, it has been found that a gradual loss of weight for several months had preceded the appearance of any more direct symptoms of disease. It frequently occurs that prisoners who appear to be in good health, and have not complained either of illness or of wanting more food, have been found to have lost weight steadily for several consecutive months. In such cases I am accustomed to give more food, and I am fully satisfied that by so doing I have prevented serious failure of health, from which it might have been difficult, if not impossible, to have recovered the patient. There are, perhaps, a few cases in which a prisoner on admission may carry more flesh than is necessary for the maintenance of a state of good health, and therefore in which he may lose weight with the effect of improving rather than of deteriorating in health; but such cases would be readily distinguished from those in which a gradual loss of weight was the first symptom of incipient disease; and my ex-

perience would lead me to say that the number of cases in which a prisoner loses weight with advantage to his health is infinitely small compared with the number of cases in which the loss of weight is associated with a lowering of the general tone of the system, which, if not checked, would result in the development of any disease to which the prisoner had a predisposition."—Page 80.

Conduct of the prisoners.

Notwithstanding the separate Reports show that there continues to be much misconduct, and that in many cases when the fact of the misconduct is not established it nevertheless probably exists, owing to the want of effectual supervision, the general conduct of the prisoners during the year appears to have been good.

Prisons distinguished for small number of punishments.

The prisons at the following towns were distinguished for the small number of punishments, concurrently with the existence of efficient discipline:—Chester (county prison), Derby, Knutsford, Leeds, Norwich (county prison), Southwell, Wakefield, Walsingham, and Wymondham.

Isolation of prisoners in chapel.

Among minor causes of misconduct I have had occasion to call attention to the attempted isolation of prisoners in chapel by means of stalls separated from each other by wooden partitions; such partitions (besides destroying the social character of the worship) impeding supervision and serving as screens for the commission of offences.

In my last Report I gave the evidence of the chaplains of the prison at Wakefield on the good effect of removing the partitions in the chapel of that large prison. The following additional evidence on the subject appears in the last annual Report of the Rev. Mr. Reynolds, chaplain of the convict department at Wakefield:—

"Another year has tested the propriety of removing the Chapel stalls, and I am thankful to be able to state that the results have been most satisfactory. It not unfrequently occurs that a month passes without a single report of misconduct in Chapel; while, on the other hand, the deep attention and reverential deportment of nearly the whole of the men at public worship, have on several occasions drawn from visitors expressions of the highest commendation."

Such partitions have been removed from the prison at Knutsford also; and the Rev. Mr. Mitchell, the chaplain, spoke in very favourable terms of the result of the alteration.

I beg to call attention to the remarks at page 3 of the Rev. Mr. Appleton, chaplain of the county prison at Liverpool, on the effect of exempting Chartist prisoners from work and from other parts of the ordinary discipline.

Effects of distinction by court of justice in favour of particular prisoners.

I am glad to be able to refer (at page 6) to one striking case of exception to the general misconduct of the Chartist prisoners; and I am the more desirous of submitting this case to your notice, Sir, because the meritorious person concerned is an Irishman; one therefore whose countrymen I have unfortunately so often to speak of in relation to crime in this country. It will be seen that the person referred to, although in humble circumstances, has, since his liberation from prison, generously devoted both time and money to assisting juvenile liberated prisoners to get work and food for a time, until they should be able to procure suitable situations.

Some instances have lately occurred of prisoners convicted of frauds on Savings Banks being placed by the sentence of the court in the same favoured position as the Chartist prisoners described by Mr. Appleton.

Form of daily prayer.

The selection from the Liturgy made by the Rev. Mr. Clay, to serve as a form of daily prayer at the prison at Preston, seems to be well suited for general adoption; and it has the advantage of being printed in a large, clear type, which is of considerable service to imperfect readers, such as generally form the large majority of a prison congregation.

Want of motives to industry, self-control, and general good conduct, caused by state of the law.

I have had frequent occasion to call attention to the want of motives to industry, self-control, and general good conduct among prisoners, owing chiefly to the state of the law; and in my last Report I took occasion to contrast the position of prisoners generally in this respect with that of offenders sentenced to transportation. The following further evidence on the subject is given by the Rev. Mr. Alderson, one of the chaplains at the prison at Wakefield :—

"The conduct of the transports is decidedly better, as a general rule, than that of the best conducted class of West Riding prisoners, namely,

those sentenced to long periods of imprisonment. This I attribute to the motives to good conduct held out to the transports, while no such motives are presented to ordinary prisoners. The transport knows that the length of the period of separate confinement, and afterwards of confinement in association, and subsequently of restraint and surveillance in the colony to which he may be sent, are dependent to a considerable extent on himself; in a word, that it rests with himself, and depends on whether he is industrious or idle, orderly or disorderly, obedient or refractory, what shall be the amount of his punishment; while the ordinary prisoners knows, that, whether he conducts himself well or ill, he cannot, under ordinary circumstances, diminish or add to his punishment by a single day's imprisonment."

Conduct of debtors in prison.

I have often had to observe on the idle and corrupting life which debtors generally pass in prison; and among other prisons which I have been obliged to particularize in this respect is the county prison at Lancaster. It affords me much pleasure, however, to be able to state that a great improvement has lately been effected in the management of the debtors in this prison; though the state of the law, which presents obstacles to almost all kinds of prison improvement in England, creates some difficulties beyond the control of the magistrates.

From no body of magistrates have I received more cordial co-operation than from the Visiting Justices of Lancaster Castle.

Few complaints from prisoners.

I have received but few complaints from prisoners during the past year. As a general rule, complaints, as might be expected, are most frequent where the discipline is most lax and the prisoners most idle.

Reduction in expense of prisons.

In some prisons there has, I am glad to say, been a reduction in expense, caused in part by making the work more productive. Still the cost is far higher, even where lowest, than appears to be necessary, if the law were so altered as to afford proper motives to industry, and if other improvements were made.

Prisons distinguished for economical management.

Among the prisons distinguished for economical management last year were the prisons at Chester (city prison), Falkingham, Knutsford, Leeds, Liverpool (both county and borough prisons), Salford, and Wakefield. Of these, the prisons at Salford and Wakefield were the most distinguished; the average cost per head at each of these prisons last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or

repairs) having been between 13*l.* and 14*l.*, which is less than the general average by more than 8*l.*, and is less than the third part of the cost at some prisons.

As I have repeatedly mentioned, those prisons which are least expensive are, as a general rule, best regulated: they are also, generally speaking, the largest. Least expensive prisons generally best.

The prisons whose discontinuance I have suggested are not only ill constructed, but for the most part very expensive.

Several of the prisons continue to be attractive, to certain classes of persons, instead of repulsive; owing apparently in some instances to the better dietary of the prison as compared with that of the workhouse; in others to the good medical treatment generally provided in prisons; and in others to a practice of giving prisoners clothing on their liberation, a practice which, did the law permit, might be replaced by a rule enabling prisoners to earn clothing by extra labour. Several prisons still attractive.

The governor of the borough prison at Cambridge stated that many persons were reckless about committing offences, because they preferred being sent to the prison to going to the workhouse, owing chiefly (according to their statements) to their getting better food at the prison.

The chaplain of the prison at Spilsby stated as follows:—

"I am sorry to observe that the present system of discipline here does not deter people from the commission of crime. Several have said that they would rather come here than go to the union workhouse." —Page 101.

The governor of the prison at Northallerton stated that a prisoner had lately been discharged who had had both his feet amputated in the prison. He said that this man had arrived at the prison in a miserable condition, and that he believed that the magistrate who had committed him had done so from motives of charity. He stated that the man had been exposed to such severe cold by lying in the open air several nights, that mortification of the limbs had commenced, and that he believed that, if he had remained out of prison a single day longer, he

would have lost his life; as it was, life had only been saved by the speedy amputation of both the man's feet.—Page 89.

Mr. Dunn, one of the surgeons of the prison at Wakefield, states,—

"I am convinced that many persons, especially females, get committed to the prison on purpose to be cured of attacks of syphilis. Many of them have admitted to me that it was so. A man from Bradford who went out last week told me that he had been here before, and that he had got committed again in consequence of his having a return of his disease (syphilis), and that he came to be cured. The hospitals in the West Riding do not admit syphilitic patients, and hence I suppose it is that persons so attacked often look on the prison as an hospital for their disease, and by committing an offence force their way into it. Prisoners labouring under this disease often require a costly diet, as well as medical treatment, and they can do no work. They are, therefore, among the most expensive prisoners that we have. One man who was here for a month last autumn, and who came in a very diseased state, but who left cured, required, during nearly the whole time, a pint of wine per day, besides malt liquor. It was a case of sloughing chancre, in which a very liberal diet is necessary to preserve life; and it was requisite to have a prisoner, acting as nurse, to sit up with him through the night. The cost to the West Riding of this single case, counting expenses of all kinds, could not have been less than 6*l.*"—Page 79.

The governor of the city prison at York said,—

"By the acknowledgments of the prisoners themselves, I know that the practice still continues of committing offences on purpose to get committed to this prison. Four prisoners were liberated this morning who had broken a street lamp with the evident intention of being sent to this prison. They were sentenced to seven days' imprisonment, and on their liberation each prisoner was supplied with a coat, waistcoat, pair of trousers, and a pair of shoes, and one of them had a shirt also! Many times last winter gas-lamps and the windows of the police-office and vagrant-office were broken, in order to get admission to the prison. Out of 18 male prisoners who were brought to trial at the last Quarter Sessions, 12 in my opinion committed their offences for the direct purpose of being sent to prison. Most of the vagrants committed to the prison still pass their time in idleness; no prisoners except those sentenced to hard labour being set to work."—Page 68.

The following is an extract from the Visiting Justices' minute-book at the same prison:—

"*Dec. 12th*, 1849.—The number of prisoners who commit offences with the object of being maintained during the winter increases yearly, and is deserving of serious consideration, as a serious expense is entailed thereby on the city. The imprisonment inflicted is not looked on as a punishment, but a reward."—Page 68.

Mr. Clay's Reports.

I wish to call your attention, Sir, to the last annual Report of the Rev. Mr. Clay, chaplain of the house of correction at Preston.*

Multitude of offences committed by few persons.

Mr. Clay's Reports always contain much interesting and instructive matter, but his last Report does so in an unusual degree. In particular I would notice his narrative (at page 1 of the Appendix) of the lives of a family named O'Neill, and their associates, together with an estimate of their money-cost to society. By this estimate it appears that the parties in question (15 in number) have probably cost the country upwards of 26,000*l.*

A short account of this family will be found at page 19 of my present Report.

In the report on the prison at Walsingham, page 165, there is an account of another bad family which has probably cost the country at least 1000*l.*, besides assisting to propagate habits of crime.

In several of my previous Reports I have given similar records. In particular I may refer to my Fourth Report, on the prisons in Scotland, page 7, where an account is given of three families (the fathers being brothers), nearly all the members of which were engaged in passing base money, and where an estimate is made by which it would appear that, if these brothers had been either reformed or permanently withdrawn from society before they became fathers of families, twenty thousand distinct offences might probably have been prevented.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, I beg permission to state that the experience of every year does but strengthen the impression produced by the facts which are daily brought under my notice, in the course of my official duties, that the common opinion of the progressive augmentation of crime is erroneous. I am convinced that, having due regard to the gradual increase of population, crime, notwithstanding occasional outbreaks like that of the late cases of burglary and highway robbery, has long been on the wane. The result of my observations, moreover, is, that the criminal class is comparatively small in number, though active in the repetition of offences; that habitual offenders are generally known to the public, and might, with certain

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alterations in our criminal jurisprudence, be effectually weeded out from society, and by reformation, or, where that is found to be impracticable, by permanent withdrawal, be deprived either of the desire or the power to propagate crime.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
FREDERIC HILL.

II.

REPORTS ON SEPARATE PRISONS.

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LANCASHIRE.

LIVERPOOL.—COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[The Inspection began April 1st, 1850.]

The only alteration of any importance, either in the building or discipline, since my Report in December last, has been the substitution of crank labour for a small steam-engine to pump the water used in the prison. In the propriety of this change I quite concur; for though I am strongly averse to crank labour or any other kind of labour which is turned to no account, I think that all work which the prisoners can possibly perform themselves should be done by them.

In this instance the introduction of the crank labour has, to a certain extent, superseded the necessity for the ordinary walking in the airing-yards; a kind of exercise, which, under good general arrangements (including a provision for regular employment in the open air) might, in my opinion, be nearly done away with. No ordinary working-man thinks of pacing round a yard for exercise. His work is his exercise, and is often, indeed, more than sufficient for his health.

The buildings seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners in the year ending 31st March last was 440, which is the same within one as in the previous year. During the last few months, however, there has been a considerable decrease of prisoners. On the day of my visit there were 410.

As elsewhere, the decrease of prisoners is attributed chiefly to the improvement in trade and to fewer Irish coming over.

The only important exception that I found to the observance of the rules was, that the chaplain and surgeon do not see the prisoners daily in their separate cells. This rule I consider impracticable.

Some additional looms have been put up since my inspection in December, and two new officers appointed; one a weaver,

and the other a tailor, in place of an expensive officer who has left.

The class of shoemakers mentioned in the last Report is going on very satisfactorily.

There appears to be generally a considerable number of blacksmiths at this prison, and it is desirable that a larger smithy should be put up, so as to allow of their being all employed at their own trade.

The clear annual profit per prisoner last year for work done for sale was rather more than 13*s.*, and the estimated value per prisoner of the work done for the prison was 2*l.* 7*s.*

The following are extracts from the chaplain's last annual Report:

"I wish I could congratulate the country upon any decrease in the proportion of those who owe their commitments to the debasing, demoralizing, and impoverishing habit of drunkenness. Truth compels me to state that I have every reason to fear that this scourge of our country is increasing instead of abating, and that, as in the case of burglary to which I have alluded above, boys of the tenderest age are now often found among the victims of intoxication. I have ceased for some time to add to my tables the causes, motives, and inducements which have led to the various crimes which here meet with their just punishment, because I have found, to my regret, that I cannot rely with any confidence upon the statements which are made to me on this subject by the prisoners, from whom alone, in most instances, I have the means of deriving the information. This one fearful, monstrous vice of our countrymen, however, forces itself day after day upon my notice and compassion; and I think I am not guilty of exaggeration when I state that about two thirds of those who come before me are in some way or other indebted to the public-house or the gin-shop for their appearance within these walls. I can hardly turn to a page in my journal which does not contain some melancholy case or other of the sad effects of this all-prevalent and ruinous vice. I will take a few of them at random:—

"*Jan.* 1*st.* J. T., committed for manslaughter on Sunday morning, in a fight occasioned by a quarrel at a public house, in which both had been drinking all the night before.

"*Feb.* 12*th.* A man committed for manslaughter in a drunken brawl, by pressing his knee against another man's belly.

"*March* 17*th.* J. C. and J. H., for street robbery at Manchester: both in good situations, and both receiving in court excellent characters. C. has 36*s.* a week, standing wages. They had been at a free concert room, and were fresh in liquor.

"*April* 24*th.* J. V. went out this morning after his fifteenth term of imprisonment,—reached Warrington, *got drunk* there, and was taken up dead in the streets the same evening!

"*May* 18*th.* D. L., committed for cutting his own throat in a fit of delirium, brought on by drunkenness. His wife, I have learnt from the Vicar of Ormskirk, is a most respectable person, but he has deserted her; and, at the time of his apprehension, was earning 40*s.* a week by teaching dancing.

"*June 25th.* Two men committed for running a race in a state of nudity, in open day, *when drunk*, at Orrell.

"*July 13th.* A. P., committed to the Assizes for the murder of her child. Her story is, that she had gone into a privy *in a state of intoxication* and fallen asleep, when the child fell out of her arms into the ashpit. Her story was believed, and the woman acquitted.

"*July 13th.* An Irishwoman committed from Ormskirk for breaking windows, *having got drunk at the funeral of her own child.*

"*Aug. 9th.* R. M'C. and W. W., committed for an attempt at rape at Tyldesley. It appears that men and women slept in the same rooms in this house, as is the case in many others. These young men came in at half past one '*far advanced in liquor*,' and attempted to force her. Her cries fortunately brought the landlord, who was sleeping in an adjoining room, with his wife, children, and several other young women. Well may our gaols be filled when such a state of things exists outside!

"Such are a few of the cases which have come before me during the year, showing the various lamentable effects of this universally spread canker of our social system. Much has, I am aware, been done, during the last two years, to check this lamentable evil; but most grievous it is, to me at least, to see the ease with which spirit licences are obtained in our large towns. There appears to be no attempt to place a limit to their number, and the corner shop of almost every street will, it is to be feared from present appearances, soon become a double trap, to poison and ruin alike the bodies and the souls, to destroy the present comfort, and the future welfare and happiness, of the labouring population of our towns, whilst the country villages and hamlets are proportionably well filled with their public houses and their beer shops, and no one is exempt from constant exposure to a temptation which few, alas! prove themselves able to resist.

"This year has been marked by one circumstance which seems to call for a remark from me. At the last December Assizes, Baron Alderson sentenced a number of the Chartist prisoners to be on the first class of misdemeanants, whereby they became entitled to privileges which I cannot but think entirely at variance with the object of imprisonment as now generally acknowledged and sought to be attained, viz., the reformation of the criminal, and the cure of that peculiar moral disease against which the law he has transgressed is directed. Now I am at a loss to know what reformation can be expected from men who are placed together, as these men were, in a ward detached from the rest of the prison, without any labour, without having to keep even their own apartments in order, with such food as they prefer or can afford to purchase brought in to them, with a pint of wine or a quart of ale allowed to be procured daily, with newspapers to read, and any number of letters to write and to receive, with leave to see any friends they please at any hour of the day, and with their entire time, both day and night, at their own disposal. Moreover, the *immediate* object, if such it be, as I suppose it must be, to make these men more comfortable in their confinement, is not answered, for I am quite sure that no men in the building have been so discontented or preferred so many unreasonable complaints. Nor must we omit to notice another evil attendant upon the introduction of this class into our gaol—I mean the discontent and

jealousy it not unnaturally causes in the minds of others, who may consider themselves, and not without reason, equally entitled to these privileges with those who are enjoying them. And indeed it would be a hard task to convince men why those who have committed the self-same offence should be treated with such a marked distinction. I must state, and I think it my duty to state, that it is my earnest wish that the magistrates would either seek for the abolition of this class altogether, or at least would urge the desirableness of having some entire building devoted to such prisoners; for the experience of the past year has shown that such a deviation from our generally excellent system of discipline here is fraught with unmixed evil.

"I have, as usual, numbers of interesting little biographies lying before me, which have been written for me, at my request, by the inmates of our separate cells. Many of these give a painful description of the temptations which are so often thickly strewed around the path of the child from his earliest youth; nor can we feel surprised to find those fall for whom no means of grace have been provided, to whose ears no word of counsel has been addressed, but all around whom has been nothing but an atmosphere of evil. Many of these are interspersed with brighter spots of the new thoughts and feelings which their confinement here has engendered within them—of the shame and sorrow with which they can now look back upon their past career of vice and folly, of the good resolutions which they have formed for the future, and of the thankfulness with which they regard the benefits they have here received. Mr. Wright, the well-known and valued philanthropist of Manchester and prisoner's friend, has paid us several visits during the year, and has benevolently assisted several of our discharged prisoners, both with money and with employment, on their release; and most of them, I have been gratified to learn, have profited by his kindness, and done credit to his generous efforts to follow up gaol reformation by permanent respectability of character. Of others, too, we have received favourable accounts. The list, however, which I append to my tables of re-committals is one which grieves my heart; for although, when we consider the great number that have been in our cells, and the short time several of them have remained there, the proportion ought not, perhaps, to excite much surprise, still I must confess to feel a little disappointment, after all our efforts to reclaim, at so unfavourable a result. After another year's experience I still retain the same opinion which I have before expressed with respect to the separate system. In the modified form in which we have it at Kirkdale, I think it decidedly the best system yet devised for the prevention of moral corruption by contamination, without rendering those who are subject to it unfit to mingle again with the world on their release. I still, however, strenuously maintain that whilst the aspect of society continues what it is outside, we cannot look for any extensive permanent reformation of criminals; for, however much improved, they may be by their residence in our gaols, if they return to the same haunts, the same companions, and the same circumstances as those to which they owe their past misconduct, how can we venture to hope that, at least in very many instances, their virtue will not at length give way, and their newly formed principles, however excellent, become impaired, if not entirely destroyed? Every thing has now been done by a philanthropic generation *within* the prison walls;

let us hope now that something more extensive and more substantial may be done *without* them—not only to prevent the commission of crime at all, by improving the moral habits of the people at large, but also by providing, as far as practicable, the means of procuring an honest, if it be a hard-earned livelihood, for every prisoner when he returns to the world. Benevolent individuals, like the excellent Mr. Wright of Manchester, have shown what may be done by a well-directed zeal and judicious application of private munificence to this most truly Christian cause; and why should not a public establishment be formed here as elsewhere, for receiving, if not all, at least juvenile prisoners, on their release, in which the homeless at least might be placed, secure from the temptations of our vicious towns, and encouraged to carry on to maturity those infant principles of good which have been here implanted in their minds, whilst they are taught some useful trade by which they may be enabled, when those principles are matured, to gain an honest livelihood for themselves? An institution on a small scale has been long open to the female portion of our inmates on their release, and several have from time to time availed themselves of it, and become by its means respectable servants and respected members of society; but in this county, so far from there being any encouragement to a male prisoner to put in practice the good resolutions he may have formed whilst within our walls, he is almost invariably shunned and rejected on his application for work; and in several instances which have been painfully brought to my notice, a man has been re-committed because he could not gain an honest living, having been discharged from one place after another upon the discovery being made that he had been in a gaol. Now, far be it from me to express an opinion that a manufacturer, or a merchant, or a tradesman, or a farmer, is wrong in preferring a man of uniform sobriety and honesty to one of blemished character for his service; but, without closing my eyes to the practical difficulties of the case, I do think that every man upon leaving a gaol, where so much pains has been taken to reform and reclaim him, should have a fair opportunity of having his principles tested by being able to support himself by an honest calling; and if this be impracticable amongst private individuals, I cannot but think that an institution which would supply this evident want would be one well worthy of the exercise of that benevolence which so nobly distinguishes this age and this country, and which is daily bestowing such an infinity of good upon the temporal and eternal interests of tens of thousands on every side of those who are suffering under the various other 'afflictions of mind, body, and estate' to which frail man is exposed."

"The following is an extract from a letter written by J. R., the man to whom I have alluded in my Report, as sentenced to death for the murder of a policeman at Ashton, but afterwards reprieved and transported for life. After thanking the friend to whom he addressed it for all his kind exertions in his behalf, he writes, 'I must also inform you that I have thrown aside all notions that I may have previously entertained respecting physical force; and like many other misguided men, can see, now it is too late, the folly and absurdity of such wild and visionary schemes. And I sincerely hope and trust that for the future the young men of Ashton will take warning by the unhappy

fate of me and my unfortunate fellow-prisoners; for I can assure them, from my own short and bitter experience, that the men who are first and foremost to goad and incite men to acts of violence, have been, and always will be, the first men to desert them and leave them, like myself, to be dupes and victims for the scaffold, the convict-ship, or the gloom of a prison dungeon.'"

After hearing of the misconduct of several of the Chartist prisoners, it is gratifying to learn that there was one remarkable exception. At my request the chaplain has drawn up the following account of this case:—

"The following letter has been written to me by Mr. J. F., one of the Manchester Chartists, who, during the time that he was in the gaol, conducted himself remarkably well, and was always most industriously employed, both during the hours of labour, when he worked as a shoemaker, and during those reserved for mental improvement. He often expressed to me his regret that so many poor boys should have no occupation to follow on their leaving the gaol, and formed a resolution to endeavour to take charge of some of those so circumstanced as soon as he had established himself in his business again, and teach them his trade. From this letter it will be seen that he has begun in earnest his novel and interesting design, which I trust may eventually be in some degree successful.

'Rose Villa, Pendleton, Feb. 11, 1850.

'Reverend and Respected Sir,

'Pardon me for writing to you this note; but I wish to inform you that G. came to me about 25 days past, and I kept him for nearly three weeks. I could find nothing for him to do. I was compelled to part with him in order to avoid sinking into difficulties. He was willing to do good, if he got but the chance; and having spent about two pounds of my earnings upon the lad which I now have, I could not keep him longer.

'I intend, with the blessing of God, to take the two Js. (which I had under me when I was in prison), when they are discharged, if they be willing to come to me,—for Mr. Wright and Mr. Joseph Thomson wish that we should save them from ruin, if their mother will be willing to have them done for and placed in such a position as to be able to earn an honest living. By their sending me their mother's address, I will communicate with her before then. I will either go to receive them or they can be sent to me. You, Sir, will be so good as to speak to the governor, and tell him that I hope that he will urge those children's instructor to instruct them as far as lies in his power, as I will be able to judge by them, to a farthing, what the cost would be in reforming a criminal. You can tell the brothers J. that I will take a house of my own a fortnight before they come out, and if they will be but good they shall want for nothing.

'I have been unable since my discharge to use your French grammar, in consequence of being in lodgings; but as soon as I go into a house of my own, I shall commence to finish my knowledge of French.

'Would you, Sir, be so kind to write me a line letting me know whether W. and J. J. would come to me, and if they would, what their mother's address is, so that either I or Mr. Wright could communicate with her. I must conclude with returning to you my thanks for your kindness to me, and I hope that you, Sir, and your family enjoy the best gift of Providence, good health, which is the earnest wish of

'Your obedient and humble servant,

(Signed) 'J. F.

'Rev. Mr. Appleton, Chaplain,
'Kirkdale Prison.'

"I wrote in reply to this, sending the address requested, and communicating the readiness of the J.s (particularly the younger) to avail themselves of F.'s kind offer. The mother has given her consent, and they are to go to him on their release, a few days hence."

The chaplain attends the prison about five hours per day on an average.

I examined some of the prisoners in their progress in reading and writing, and the examination was, on the whole, satisfactory.

There is a good practice in this prison, as in some others, for a prisoner to read aloud, from some interesting and instructive book, to the other prisoners, when they are employed at such sedentary occupations as picking wool.

The prison was very clean throughout, as were the persons of the prisoners.

The clothing and bedding were sufficient.

The dietary is that recommended by the late Secretary of State, and I received but few complaints respecting it; nevertheless, it appeared by a return which I called for, that many more prisoners lost than gained in weight last year.

The food was of good quality. Its daily cost per head last year was about 4*d.*, which is about the usual cost in other prisons.

Except that some of the prisoners had glandular swellings on the neck, brought on apparently by their imprisonment, and that several had chilblains, the prisoners had the appearance of being in tolerably good health. The surgeon stated as follows:—

"The general state of health in the prison at present is good, and it has been so since Mr. Hill's inspection last December. There are only five prisoners at present who are not able to work, and only two of the cases are severe. The only disease that has been at all general is chilblains, and this has been confined to the male prisoners on the west side. There is no disease to which the prisoners are more liable than persons out of prison. I think that upon the whole the prisoners improve in health during their confinement, even those who are committed for long periods. The food is of good quality, but I think the soup would be much improved as regards health, by having more green vegetables in it. No labouring men in the agricultural population get the quantity of animal food that is given to our prisoners. I am of

opinion that P. M. McD. is in good health, and in quite as good health as when he came to the prison. I do not consider it necessary that any distinction should be made in his case from the generality of the prisoners with respect to exercise in the open air, though I think it desirable that all prisoners confined for long periods should have exercise, either at the crank or in walking in the open air, two hours every day. I have read the letter just received by Mr. Hill from P. M. McD. respecting the air in his cell, and in company with Mr. Hill I have since examined McD.'s cell and the two adjoining cells, and have heard the statements of the prisoners in these adjoining cells, and those of the officer in charge of the ward, all which statements are in direct contradiction to McD.'s. I am of opinion that the complaints of P. M. McD. contained in the letter referred to are groundless, and that he has no just cause for complaint of any kind. I have found McD. on all occasions to be utterly regardless of truth."

P. M. McD., the prisoner specially mentioned in the foregoing evidence, has frequently given trouble by making groundless complaints. The governor and chaplain quite confirmed the surgeon's statement as to his habitual disregard of truth; and my own observation agreed with their remarks. The chaplain said:—

"I have not the least reliance on the word of P. M. McD. He exaggerates and misrepresents every thing that takes place. On one occasion, on my remonstrating with him on a groundless and abusive statement which he had made in writing, relative to the clergy generally, he said that it was necessary to spice such things for the public."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good, but the number of punishments continues to be very great. Last year it was nearly 5000. It should be remarked, however, that the system of tasks is fully carried out among the male prisoners, and that the non-performance of the task is regarded as an offence, and is properly punished by the loss of food. In this way, therefore, by the governor's adherence to an important rule, his prison contrasts unfavourably, as respects the number of punishments, with a prison where there are no tasks.

Few prisoners made any complaints, and very few of the complaints were sustained.

The registers and account books were in a proper state, and the system of accounts appears to afford a tolerably good check on the disbursements.

The average net cost per prisoner last year was about 18*l.*, which is 4*l.* below the general average in England, though 2*l.* above the general average in Scotland.

The general result of the inspection was creditable to Captain Gibbs the governor, to Mr. Appleton the Chaplain, to Mrs. Simpson the matron, and to the other officers.

I made the following recommendations:—

1. All prisoners, after a confinement of six months, to have at least two hours' exercise per day, either at crank labour or in the airing yards.

2. A large smithy to be built (by the prisoners), so as to allow of more of the prisoners being employed as blacksmiths.

3. P. M. McD. never to be allowed to be in the company of any other prisoners, except in the presence of an officer; in order to prevent his exercising a bad influence over them and doing them moral injury.

The following extract, strongly illustrating the miserable effects of drunkenness, is taken from the Chaplain's Report for the year ending Michaelmas, 1850:—

"I wish I could state that habits of intemperance prevail less extensively than during previous periods embraced by my Reports, but I fear that even a greater proportion than usual have owed their commitment to this brutalizing vice. I have stated in my tables that the calendars have contained the names of no fewer than thirty-two persons charged with the crime of manslaughter. Now I will give the magistrates a little information with respect to twenty of these cases, in every one of which they will see that the death was attributable either directly or indirectly to drunkenness.

"1, 2. A man's leg broken in a drunken quarrel, which mortified and caused his death.
"3, 4, 5, 6. Man killed in a fight made up at a public-house.
"7, 8. Man killed in a quarrel about cards at a public-house.
"9. Man killed at a beer-shop.
"10. Man killed at a lodging-house with a knife, by J. P. when drunk.
"11. Wife killed by kicking her when drunk.
"12. Wife killed with a stone when drunk.
"13. Prostitute with whom he had been drinking, killed by J. G.
"14. A drunken man killed after a club-meeting, by S. M., himself also drunk.
"15. A similar case to the last, with the exception of the club.
"16. J. D., for killing a drunken man at a public-house.
"17. H. D., for killing a man when drunk.
"18. E. J., for aiding and abetting at a fight where a man was killed.
"19. R. R., for killing his wife; both drunk.
"20. T. B., for causing the death of his mother-in-law, by throwing her down on the kerbstone for interfering between him and his wife, against whom he was incensed on account of her drunken habits.

"Thus, of thirty-two persons charged with manslaughter, no fewer than twenty have owed their commitment to this fearful moral scourge of our country, intemperance. It would be tedious to examine the proportion of those committed for other crimes who owe their imprisonment to the same all-prevailing vice; but if we except a very few of the crimes contained in our calendars, we shall find that no fewer than

three-fourths of the remainder are attributable, in some way or other, or at least have been accompanied by, habits of intemperance."

The following case, taken from the same Report, is one of those applications of the punishment of imprisonment, to be occasionally met with, that appear both unreasonable and cruel:—

"*May 17th.*—Two boys sent here: one for obstructing a footpath whilst *playing at marbles;* the other for stopping his wheelbarrow to watch him."

LIVERPOOL.—BOROUGH PRISON.

[The Inspection began April 2nd, 1850.]

There has not been any alteration of importance in the building since the last inspection (about four months ago), and the only change of any importance in the management has been the discontinuance of the dietary which was adopted at the time that cholera was prevalent in the country.

The building appeared to be in good repair. As shown in previous reports, it is badly situated and ill adapted for a good system of discipline; but a new prison is now building, in a much better place, about four miles from Liverpool.

The average number of prisoners during the year ending 31st of March, 1850, was 822; which is 180 less than the average in the previous year. At the time of the inspection the number of prisoners was 892.

The following is taken from the Governor's Report to the magistrates for the year ending Michaelmas 1849:—

"It will be observed that the past year differs from the three preceding years in not showing an increase in the number of committals, but I am sorry to say that the prison still continues notorious for the large number of its inmates, exceeding, as I believe it does, all other towns in the kingdom in proportion to the population. The facilities afforded for pilfering on the dock quays, where a large amount of merchandise is unavoidably exposed, and the practice, which exists to a great extent in this town, of tradesmen exhibiting their goods at the doors of their premises, appear to me to be prominent causes for this, otherwise, undue amount of crime.

"Although the gaol has been so crowded, there has been a remarkable decrease in the number of punishments: last year 10,500 punishments were inflicted for prison offences; this year the number amounts to 6,855, showing a diminution of 3,645.

"I have used every exertion to promote economy, and it must be a source of some gratification to the magistrates to know that the gaol for this borough is maintained at a less expense than any other in England in proportion to the number of its inmates.

"The conduct of all the subordinate officers during the year has been

satisfactory, and the discipline of the gaol has been strictly maintained. Two of the senior wardens have received appointments as governors of other gaols, and one of the vacancies thus created will not be filled up: the services of an extra night watchman have also been dispensed with, and the establishment will be further reduced as vacancies occur, if the number of committals do not increase."

Since the period to which the foregoing extracts from the Governor's Report relate, there has been a very considerable decrease in the number of prisoners, owing no doubt to the improvement in trade.

There appears to be good reason to believe that much crime and pauperism in Liverpool are attributable to what at first sight would seem to be wholly unconnected with either—I allude to the regulation forbidding the use of fires and lights in any ship in the docks. This rule prevents the sailors in the port of Liverpool from living on board their ships, and causes many of them to fall a prey to prostitutes and other persons of bad character on land. It is stated that the effect of this on the general character and conduct of sailors frequenting this port is very injurious; that while it is a common thing for London sailors and for sailors frequenting other ports to rise through the different grades of their profession till they become captains, it is rare for any Liverpool sailor to obtain promotion; and that while, after unloading a cargo at London, a good captain may reckon on having the great majority of his crew to go another voyage with him, it is seldom that half the crew can be reassembled at Liverpool, and that of those who do return, it is often found that many have scarcely any clothing left to go to sea with. And as regards the object of the regulation, the prevention of fire, it is stated that instead of this object being really promoted, the danger of fire is increased, and that in no slight degree, owing to lights being used by stealth and without the precautions usually employed when no concealment is necessary. When at sea, it is the custom, I was informed, to have the lights with which the sailors go down into the hold in lanterns with locks to them, the keys of which are kept by an officer, so that a common sailor using it cannot take the light out; whereas the lights used in contravention to the dock rule are open candles, which can at once be extinguished when a signal is given that a police officer is coming, and lighted again by a lucifer match.

I was glad to learn that this subject is exciting public attention, and I hope it will be fully investigated.

I found the following to be the chief exceptions to the observance of the rules:—

1. Many cells are used to a considerable extent for the separate confinement of prisoners which have not been certified as fit for such use, and which are not in accordance with the provisions of the statute.

2. The classification required by law is often necessarily departed from for want of room.

3. Some of the female prisoners are employed as monitors in teaching others to read and write.

4. Untried prisoners have been required to do light kinds of work and to wear the prison dress.

5. There is a deficiency in personal cleanliness; many prisoners not having washed their feet in winter oftener than once a fortnight, or, sometimes, once a month, and not having bathed so often as is desirable.

Some of the prisoners were employed in making the furniture and some of the iron-work which will be required for the new prison. I think it very desirable also that they should assist in erecting the building itself. Besides the bricklayers and carpenters among the prisoners, many of the labourers might have full employment.

At the time of my visit there were in the prison 44 carpenters, joiners, &c., 26 masons or bricklayers, and 288 labourers; and it would produce a great saving to the borough, promote the improvement of the prisoners employed, and afford great relief to the present building, if a large party of the prisoners were accommodated in sheds at the new building and set to work there.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"There has not been any change in the routine of my duties. I perform full service twice on the Sunday, and when the prison is crowded, I perform an additional full service on one of the week days for those who are excluded on the Sunday. I also read prayers daily, except Wednesday, and the last Friday in the month. I catechise the girls in the chapel on the Sunday afternoon, and superintend the instruction given in the schools. I also see in private all prisoners who apply to see me, and I endeavour by correspondence and otherwise to ascertain the real characters of prisoners in order that I may the more effectually direct my admonition and advice. The sick I see almost daily. On an average I pass from four hours and a half to five hours in the prison, each day, in the performance of my duties. The conduct of the prisoners at chapel is remarkably good; indeed, whether in or out of chapel, I never met an instance of rudeness in a prisoner."

A small organ belonging to the prison, which had been taken to pieces and was lying useless in a lumber room, has, by order of Mr. Duke, the present governor, been put together again and brought into use; and under the kind direction of Mrs. Duke, some of the prisoners have been taught to chant. This had added much to the interest and solemnity of public worship in the prison.

I examined some of the prisoners in their progress in reading and writing, but did not find it on the whole satisfactory. Several of the females had made but little advancement, and as respects many of the male prisoners no record had been made by the

schoolmaster of the state of their education when they first came under his care, and consequently it was impossible to judge of their progress.

Efficient assistance in teaching the female prisoners has been given by two female prisoners, acting under the superintendence of the schoolmistress; and I am sorry that the law forbids such assistance being rendered.

One of the prisoners who have been thus occupied in teaching is a favourite throughout the prison on account of her uniform good conduct; and her offences when at large are evidently owing more to others than to herself. Her mother, I was informed, is dead, and her father lives with another woman, who encourages this girl to commit thefts.

The prison was clean, but, as already mentioned, there was a want of personal cleanliness, owing to the prisoners not having washed their feet and gone into the bath more frequently.

The bedding was sufficient and in good order, but some of the prisoners' clothes were out of repair.

The dietary, with the additions made occasionally by the surgeon, appeared to be sufficient; and it was of good quality. The daily cost of the food is about 3*d.* per head.

The prisoners had the appearance of being in tolerably good health, and the surgeon stated as follows:—

"The general health of the prisoners since Mr. Hill's visit in January, 1849, has been very good, and it is so at the present time. There are eleven prisoners who are unable to work, or to do more than very light work, but only four of these cases are serious. Of these latter cases only one prisoner was in a good state of health on admission. Cholera and diarrhœa appeared in the prison when they were prevalent in the country, but there were only four fatal cases. The only disease to which prisoners are more liable than persons in the same class of life out of prison, is a scrofulous enlargement of the glands. Up to a certain period most of the prisoners improve in health, but after four or five months the improvement generally ceases, and in some instances, though not generally, they suffer after a long imprisonment."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good; but owing to their being associated in the night cells (in most of which there are 3 prisoners), where efficient superintendence is impracticable, and to the long period passed in the night cells, particularly in winter, much bad and corrupting conversation must pass unobserved. Indeed both the governor and chaplain are of opinion that the present discipline of this prison, improved as it certainly has been, is still, as a general rule, neither deterring nor reformatory.

The number of punishments, though still great, is, as stated in the governor's Report, much less than it was. The chief offences for which punishments are inflicted are infractions of the silent system and bartering food.

Few prisoners made any complaint, and only one of the complaints (that of a boy who required a change of food) had any foundation.

The registers and account books were in a proper state, and together with the other precautions taken, appear to afford a great check on improper disbursements; but I recommended that a stock book be kept of the food consumed.

The net cost per prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was about 12*l*., which is but little more than half the general average in English prisons.

Considering the difficulties arising from the bad construction of the building and its crowded state, the general result of the inspection was creditable to Mr. Duke, the governor, and to many of the other officers.

I made the following recommendations:—

1. The prisoners to do as much as possible of the work in building a new prison.

2. Moleskin or corduroy to be gradually substituted for woollen cloth in the dress for the male prisoners; moleskin and corduroy being cheaper than woollen cloth, and preferable also on the ground of cleanliness.

LIVERPOOL.—CHIEF LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected April 11th, 1850.]

Since my last Report on this lock-up house, the ventilation has been much improved, and better provision has been made for lighting some parts of it, and for enabling the prisoners to wash themselves. Nothing, however, short of an entirely new building can remove the radical evils of the place, and prevent the contamination that must arise from the practice of putting many prisoners into the same room. If there be any place where it is important that the separate system should be fully carried out, that place is certainly a lock-up house, where parties are brought of the most dissimilar character and of every shade of guilt.

Considering that at the time of my visit the prisoners had just been removed to the police court for examination, the place was as clean as could be expected.

It will appear by the following tables, prepared by Mr. Parkinson, keeper of the lock-up house, that great as was the number of commitments last year, it was considerably less than in the previous year. It will also be seen how large a portion of the prisoners are Irish, and how few belong to Liverpool. It will be remarked also that the offences committed by the Irish are not by any means confined, as is sometimes supposed, to begging and petty thefts, but that more than half the charges of

felony were against them. Indeed in the last three cases of the punishment of death in Liverpool (the only cases for a period of five years), the offenders (one of whom had deprived not fewer than four victims of life) were Irish.

Such facts as these show how great a calamity it is to a country advanced in wealth and civilization, to have near it another country in the low condition of Ireland, and how strong an interest it has in removing the causes of its neighbour's poverty and barbarism.

A Return showing the Number of Prisoners brought before the Magistrates for Felony in the Borough of Liverpool, and how disposed of, during the following Years.

YEARS.	Males.					Females.					Total of both Sexes.				
	Committed to the Assizes.	Committed to the Sessions.	Summarily Committed.	Discharged.	Total.	Committed to the Assizes.	Committed to the Sessions.	Summarily Committed.	Discharged.	Total.	Committed to the Assizes.	Committed to the Sessions.	Summarily Committed.	Discharged.	Total.
1847.	23	494	1,699	1,832	4,048	7	255	822	1,378	2,462	30	749	2,521	3,210	6,510
1848.	43	575	2,268	1,964	4,850	4	321	1,172	1,367	2,864	47	894	3,440	3,333	7,714
1849.	32	508	1,857	1,656	4,053	16	296	1,021	1,316	2,649	48	804	2,878	2,972	6,702

A Return showing the number of Prisoners brought before the Magistrates of the Borough of Liverpool, for Felony and other offences, during the following Years.

YEARS.	For Felony.			Other Offences.			Total Number of Offences.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1847 .	4,048	2,462	6,510	8,736	4,480	13,216	12,784	6,942	19,726
1848 .	4,850	2,864	7,714	9,466	4,856	14,322	14,316	7,720	22,036
1849 .	4,053	2,649	6,702	8,610	4,175	12,785	12,663	6,824	19,487

A Return showing the number of Prisoners brought before the Magistrates on charges of Felony, distinguishing the Countries to which they belong, during the Year 1849.

COUNTRY.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Liverpool	1,063	527	1,590
English	686	340	1,026
Irish	1,922	1,622	3,544
Scotch	126	69	195
Welsh	90	64	154
Manx	9	16	25
Foreigners	157	11	168
Total	4,053	2,649	6,702

A Return showing the number of Prisoners brought before the Magistrates, distinguishing the different Countries to which they belong, during the Years 1848 *and* 1849.

COUNTRY.	1848.			1849.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Liverpool	..	..	..	2,862	1,607	4,469
English	7,138	3,650	10,788	3,228	1,401	4,629
Irish	5,280	3,514	8,794	4,823	3,301	8,124
Scotch	644	243	887	617	207	824
Welsh	519	365	784	455	231	686
Manx	128	25	153	60	52	112
Foreigners	607	23	630	618	25	643
Total	14,316	7,720	22,036	12,663	6,824	19,487

PRESTON.—HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[The Inspection began April 5th, 1850.]

There had not been any alteration of importance, either in the building or discipline, since the inspection in December last. The recommendation in my last Report, that the prison should be discontinued for females, and that these prisoners should be sent to Lancaster Castle, is to be taken into consideration at the Quarter Sessions about to be held.*

The building appeared to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners in the half-year ending 31st March was 296, which is 52 less than the average number in the previous year. The decrease is, no doubt, owing chiefly to the improvement in trade.

The following were the chief exceptions to the observance of the rules :—

1. There is no classification of the female prisoners, and but little classification of the male prisoners, except that, among the latter prisoners, almost all the untried, and any prisoners who are likely to injure their associates, or to be injured by them, are put into separate cells. The number, however, thus placed in separation constitutes the majority of the male prisoners.

2. All untried prisoners are compelled to wear the prison clothing.

3. The chaplain and surgeon do not see every prisoner in separate confinement daily in his cell. I consider the rule to be here impracticable.

Some additional looms have been procured, and two of the officers have learnt different kinds of handicraft (one that of weaving, and the other that of shoemaking), to enable them to assist in superintending the employment of the prisoners; and two other

* At these Sessions the recommendation was adopted.

officers are also learning these trades. The governor made their doing so a condition for their retaining their places.

The chaplain stated as follows :—

"There has not been any change in my duties since Mr. Hill's last inspection. The progress of the prisoners in religious and secular knowledge is very satisfactory. They receive instruction with great avidity. The conduct of the prisoners at chapel is exemplary, and their general conduct is very satisfactory. I continue greatly to prefer the social worship as existing in this prison to the insulation of prisoners in chapel. I consider the discipline in this prison calculated to deter people from the commission of crime, and except, perhaps, as regards the male prisoners associated in the workroom (many of whom are committed for too short a period for any system to produce much influence), to tend greatly also to the reformation of the prisoners; and the smallness of the number of recommitments confirms me in this view. In truth, I am often surprised at the moral improvement effected in prisoners whom one might, at first sight, suppose to be wholly incorrigible. As shown in my last Annual Report, I continue to receive very satisfactory accounts, through the rural police (for which I am indebted to the kind co-operation of Captain Woodford), of a large number of persons who were once in this prison for offences bespeaking habits of crime."

The following extracts are taken from the chaplain's journal:—

"*Sunday*, 16*th Dec.* 1849.—A man named B. died at 11 this morning, after about 10 days' illness. His character had been very indifferent; and even on his deathbed he showed a painful insensibility to his situation. B.'s wife has been a prisoner some time, under sentence for a robbery from the person. I have no doubt, from the general tenor of her conduct here, that her husband drove her to prostitution. She says that she married him when only 16 years old, he being about 12 years her senior,—that she was then earning 16*s.* at the power-looms—that he lived in idleness upon her earnings—that he forced her to commence a life of prostitution—'bringing men home,' and after sending her to '*offices*' to tempt the clerks or others, and then following in order to extort money. It is the current belief that this wretched man drove his first wife to the commission of suicide."

"*Thursday*, 10*th January*, 1850.—Two Irish children, only 6 and 8 years old, committed for 1 month under the 'Juvenile Offenders Act.' The elder one has both parents and three younger brothers living in Preston, all maintained by begging and pilfering. The younger, who seems to have been the *principal* in the theft, has also both parents living in idleness, and a brother who helps to maintain them by his wages. The establishing of such families in a town is the establishing of a moral sore, which will spread widely unless decided measures are used for its suppression. These are just the cases in which punishment should be inflicted on the *parents;* for crime without limit may spring from their encouragement of it."

"*Thursday*, *January* 31*st*, 1850.—For some days past I have made a careful examination into the state of the 'Government prisoners;' the result is *very* favourable, and adds much to the evidence in favour

of the separate system, as carried out here. Of the entire 50 prisoners, there are *none* of whose eventual amendment I despair,—very few of whose amendment I am doubtful; while, on the other hand, the majority have experienced such a beneficial change as, I believe, would warrant their immediate or speedy removal to the colonies with '*tickets of leave.*' . . . . Most of these men have now been under our care upwards of seven months. The effect of our discipline has exceeded *my most sanguine expectations.* Looking at what these men *have been*,—drunken, ignorant, profligate, infidel,—*habituated*, in short, to vice and crime in almost every shape,—and regarding their mental and spiritual state *now;* the change is indeed great, as it is gratifying. By God's blessing, the treatment here has developed industry, docility, patience, strenuous efforts at self-improvement in every way;—and, above all, the religious spark, long smothered under gross ignorance, bad habits, and self-neglect, has been fanned into a steady flame. The unbroken regularity and comfort with which the religious services of the chapel can now be attended, have, I am convinced, much to do with bringing about the present satisfactory state of things,—especially as, having for some weeks practised *class* instruction, the schoolmaster's lessons have a connexion with those delivered in the chapel."

In a belief in the good effect of moderate periods of separation I quite agree with Mr. Clay: but I do not, in the first place, think it possible, by *any* system of discipline, to cause in so short a period as seven or eight months so great and general a change in old habits as that which Mr. Clay hoped had been produced in the foregoing cases; and, secondly, I should attribute much of the effect that had been really been produced to the knowledge that these men's terms of imprisonment, and their future position in the colony to which they might be sent, depended very much on their own exertions and conduct while in the prison at Preston. Persons sentenced to considerable periods of imprisonment at Preston, but who are not transports, are subjected to the same discipline as "Government prisoners;" but they know that they cannot by any effort diminish their term of confinement by a single day, and their prospects on liberation are often melancholy. Hence they have comparatively little hope or motive to exertion, and it will be observed that Mr. Clay's remarks do not extend to them.

Another observation that arises is, that in several of the particulars enumerated by Mr. Clay, such as drunkenness, there can have been no practical evidence of improvement; inasmuch as the prisoners had not been in a position in which they were dependent on any effort of their own for avoiding the evil.

"*Friday*, 22*nd March*, 1850.—Several clergymen and others, who are interested in the important question of education for the poor, have lately applied to me for information as to the *religious profession* of our prisoners. This point is always noted in my character-book; but for many years I have abstained from giving a summary of the professions

in my Reports, from a wish to avoid furnishing matter for useless and groundless argument. The religious professions of prisoners are, in almost all cases, merely nominal. Certainly with regard to those who call themselves members of the English or Romish Church the profession is nominal to a *very* great extent; the parties having no connexion with the former, except that they have parents or other relatives interred in the churchyard; and with respect to the latter, it is only from *parentage* that they claim to be Roman Catholics. With regard to dissenters, it generally happens that there is something more of actual identification with the body to which the parties state themselves to belong,—the religious persuasion, in such cases, having been a matter of personal choice. With these preliminary observations I give the following statement, the result of an examination of 600 committals:

" Prisoners professing	the Church of England .	53·9 per cent.
,,	to be Roman Catholics .	32·0 ,,
,,	Methodists . . .	4·2 ,,
,,	Presbyterians . .	3·5 ,,
,,	Independents . .	0·8 ,,
,,	Baptists . . .	0·5 ,,
,,	Church of Scotland .	0·3 ,,
,,	Swedenborgians . .	0·3 ,,
,,	Unitarians . . .	0·2 ,,
,,	Nothing . . .	4·3 ,,

" *Wednesday*, 27*th March*, 1850.—At the last Sessions a gang of Manchester pickpockets was sentenced to transportation for a robbery committed in Preston. The gang consisted of a young man of 21, J. O'N.; his wife E., aged 17; *her* brother R. C., aged 19; and an accomplice, O'G., aged 19. O'N. and C. had been in very many other jails for pocket-picking under sentences of a few months' imprisonment. O'G. had also been in most of the jails in England under similar circumstances. E. O'N., likewise, had been imprisoned four or five times, and two *other* brothers, the eldest J. C., and the youngest E., had long led lives of crime, and had been frequently imprisoned.

" To-day the convicts C. and O'N. were visited by their father and the brother E. The father was a decent, well-clothed man, of about 55, and the brother E. a sharp, dark-eyed lad of 14, exhibiting the peculiar and not to be concealed manner of a practised thief. After the first salutations were over, the father said to his son and daughter, 'Now don't fret; sure, you'll not be kept in prison more than about five months from this; I've sent a letter to General W., and, sure, he'll soon get you off.' He was here interrupted, and all the parties told that their sentences would certainly be enforced to the full extent. Old C. seemed unwilling to credit this; having served in the —th Regt. under General W. (he has now a pension of 1*s.* a day), it was difficult to persuade him that the General would not interfere with the course of justice. The whole scene was very melancholy, chiefly from the evident insensibility of the older people to the crimes of their children; crimes which, I have too much reason to believe, were encouraged by the parents. R. C. had for some time given good evidence of better feelings; and his whole demeanour at this interview tended to strengthen that evidence. O'N., on the other hand, appears yet hardened, though there

are some indications that he is giving way. The entire batch belongs to that pre-eminently 'CLASSE DANGEREUSE'—Irish immigrants, and *Lancashire-born children of Irish parents.*"

"*Good Friday, March 29th*, 1850.—The altar-piece, representing our Lord's crucifixion, having been put into its proper situation yesterday, was seen (for the first time) by the prisoners to-day. It appeared to me that there was a more complete hush and solemnity pervading the chapel than usual, and in this opinion the Governor and officers generally concur."

The whole of the prison was quite clean, as were the persons of the prisoners.

The clothing and bedding were sufficient.

There has not been any change in the diet. I found the food of good quality.

The great majority of the prisoners appeared to be in good health, and the surgeon stated that the general health of the prisoners had been good since the last inspection, and that there had not been any prevailing disease since that time.

The general conduct of the prisoners was also reported to have been good, though the number of punishments continues to be great; very few of them, however, fall on prisoners in separate confinement, and comparatively few on females.

Only two prisoners made any complaints, and their complaints were not sustained.

The registers and accounts were all in neat order.

The average cost per prisoner last year, as stated in my last Report, was about 16*l.*, which is 6*l.* below the general average in England.

The general result of the inspection was again very creditable to Colonel Martin the governor, to Mr. Clay the chaplain, and to several of the other officers.

It is very desirable that the land adjoining, and belonging to, the prison (about two acres in extent) should be taken in, and cultivated by the prisoners. It is also desirable that a large room, to serve as a smithy and general workshop, should be built, which might readily be done (by the prisoners) if this land were taken in.

LANCASTER.—COUNTY PRISON.

[The Inspection began 16th September, 1850.]

In accordance with one of the suggestions in my Report last December the prison has been declared a house of correction as well as a gaol, with a view to all the female prisoners who are now sent to Preston being committed here; but the following recommendations have not yet been acted upon, though the visiting justices have expressed their approval of most of them:—

1. As soon as practicable, after the withdrawal of the prisoners

from Manchester, the prison to be discontinued for male criminal prisoners.

2. The debtors to be classified, as far as practicable, according to character, conduct, the circumstances under which they are committed, and the question whether or not they maintain themselves; and all the male debtors, except the best class, to occupy the northern part of the Crown side of the prison; the best class to be put in a portion of the southern side.

3. The debtors who are maintained by the county to have a regular and moderate dietary of cooked food, and no cooking to be permitted in the rooms of these debtors. The rule also which forbids such debtors from having any additional supplies from without to be strictly enforced.

4. In order to prevent the introduction of spirits, tobacco, and other forbidden articles, visitors to the lower classes of debtors to be placed under the same restrictions as visitors to criminal prisoners.

5. The hours for visiting debtors to be reduced to three per day.

6. A time and place to be appointed for drinking fermented liquor, and no fermented liquor to be allowed to go into any other part of the prison. An officer to be present, but no debtor who has not purchased any liquor to be permitted to be there; the time not to extend beyond a quarter of an hour.

7. No debtor to be allowed to have any part of the county bedding if he brings in any bedding of his own. Bolsters to be added to the bedding provided for debtors.

8. The debtors, like other prisoners, to be prohibited from whistling, singing, or otherwise disturbing the order of the prison; and no such games as skittles to be allowed among them.

9. Some of the cells on the females' side to be prepared for the separate confinement of prisoners, according to the provisions of the 2 and 3 Vict. c. 56, s. 4; and as a general rule every female criminal prisoner to be either in a separate cell or in a class under immediate and constant superintendence.

10. The hammocks, which are inconveniently high, to be lowered. (The work could be done by prisoners.)

11. The females' side of the prison to be lighted with gas; and the prisoners to be required to rise not later than at six all the year around, and not to be allowed to go to bed before nine at night.

12. As far as practicable each prisoner to be required to perform a daily task equal to ten hours' fair labour.

13. The officers to wear a uniform; among other reasons, in order that they may be at once distinguished from prisoners.

Owing to the number of female prisoners having been much increased before the removal of the male criminal prisoners, the females' division has been much crowded, and, probably in consequence of this, there has been much sickness, as will subsequently appear.

A new matron, assistant matron, and schoolmistress, have been recently appointed.

The buildings appeared to be in good repair.

The number of prisoners at the time of the inspection was 227, namely, 79 debtors (78 males and 1 female) and 148 criminals (73 males and 75 females). I do not give the average number in the last year, because as a change is going forward in the classes of prisoners received, no inference could be drawn from such a statement.

I found the following to be the chief exceptions to the observance of the rules:—

1. The debtors' wards, the kitchen on the criminals' side, and some other parts of the prison, were not in that high state of cleanliness required by the rules; indeed, in several cases they were very far from being so. The rule also respecting personal cleanliness had not been fully carried out.

2. In some of the rooms there was again a strong smell of tobacco smoke; showing that the rule forbidding smoking was still very imperfectly observed.

3. The chaplain is still not in the habit of assembling the prisoners in classes for religious instruction, or of seeing the prisoners periodically in private. Some of the prisoners had been many months without having any private conversation with the chaplain.

4. Very little hard labour is provided.

5. The debtors who get the county allowance are still permitted to procure additional food for themselves; indeed, so long as they are permitted to mingle with prisoners who provide their own food, it would be nearly impossible to prevent this breach of the rules.

6. Some of the locks of the females' division are opened by the same keys as those used on the males' side.

The work department remains in much the same state as at the last inspection.

The prisoners continue to pass a great deal of time in bed; the criminal prisoners about 11 hours in summer, and 14 hours in winter.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"The routine of my duty remains the same as at Mr. Hill's last inspection. With reference, however, to what I stated, respecting seeing the prisoners separately, and which appears in Mr. Hill's last Report, I should wish to explain, that although I do not see them periodically, I see every prisoner in private on his admission and discharge; and that with regard to not assembling the prisoners in classes for religious instruction, I expound to them daily the portion of the New Testament appointed to be read by the Rubric of the Church. The duties of the schoolmaster and schoolmistress remain the same, except that a little arithmetic has been introduced into the instruction given to the females. The conduct of the prisoners at chapel is generally exemplary."

Many of the Bibles and other books were in a state unfit for use.

The clothing and bedding were sufficient, but some of the bedding was out of repair.

It will appear by the surgeon's statement, that he thinks the present dietary too great for some prisoners, and too little for others; but he said that he had the subject under consideration, with a view of submitting another dietary to the visiting justices.

The following extract relating to the food is taken from the Governor's journal:—

"September 11, 1850.—I have stated to the surgeon that a great deal of the bread sent to the Penitentiary is not consumed; and I have suggested the propriety of withholding a portion of bread from those persons who cannot use it, giving, if necessary, other food as an equivalent. I have also suggested the substitution of some other kind of food for the rice and pea soups, which now, and so long as I have known the gaol, have been rejected by a great part of the female prisoners, so that on those soup days, many are left almost dinnerless; yesterday, for example, Mrs. MacMillan tells me that '50 noggins of rice were left untasted.' Mr. Harrison has kindly promised me to exercise his power, as our medical officer, in remedying this evil."

I tasted the food, and found it of good quality. Its average daily cost last year was $4\frac{1}{4}d.$ per head.

Most of the male prisoners had a healthy appearance, but as already mentioned, there was much sickness among the females; the sickness having apparently been brought on chiefly in consequence of their part of the prison having been much crowded, and no additional accommodation having been provided for them. The surgeon stated as follows:—

"The male prisoners and the debtors are, with only three exceptions, in very good health, and their general health has been remarkably good since Mr. Hill's last inspection. Of the three that I have excepted, only one case is serious, and in that case (one of bronchitis) there is no immediate danger. Till lately the health of the female prisoners has also been remarkably good, but about three weeks ago fever and disorder of the bowels appeared as an epidemic among them, and they have continued ever since, though now many of the prisoners are convalescent, and I hope the attack is gradually disappearing. One of the first persons attacked, was the assistant matron, and her attack proved fatal. Two prisoners also died. On one single morning I was obliged to send 30 females to the hospital. At present there are 23 on the sick list, but of this number only four or five are at all seriously indisposed. It is difficult to say how the fever was brought into the prison, but its propagation, when once there, was chiefly owing to the female prison being much crowded, and to the mixture of the female prisoners. It is very desirable that freshly-arrived prisoners, especially those of the vagrant class, should be kept apart from the other prisoners, until it is fully ascertained that they have no infectious disease lurking in their system. The clothing, too, of the sick, and of

vagrants, should be washed separately from that of other prisoners. With respect to the debtors, also, an extra room is wanted for cases of infectious disease, and of insanity. The prisoners are more liable to dyspepsia and scrofula, than persons in the same class of life out of prison, which I attribute to their confinement and want of more active employment. The prisoners generally increase in fatness during their imprisonment, but fail in muscular strength. Considering the want of active employment among the men, I think their present allowance of food more than sufficient; but that of the females is not at all too much, indeed, I have been lately obliged to increase and otherwise alter their dietary.

"There is no objection on the ground of health to debtors occupying the Crown side of the prison, and sleeping singly in the night cells now occupied by criminal prisoners; indeed I am of opinion that the change would be for the better in every respect."

There appeared again to have been much misconduct among the prisoners, though the number of punishments last year (313) was small. Many of the criminal prisoners had been punished for fighting; and four of the debtors, since the beginning of the year, for being found drunk. Of these four, three were at the time receiving the county allowance of food, on the plea that they were unable to maintain themselves.

Only two prisoners made any complaint. One was a man who made an unfounded complaint at my last visit, and his complaints on this occasion, appeared also to be without foundation. The other complainant was a debtor who said that there were too many debtors in one bedroom, and who expressed a wish that the debtors might have the use of the bath. The first evil will be remedied, if the magistrates adopt the arrangement respecting the debtors which is suggested in my recommendations; and it will be seen that I have suggested that the debtors should be permitted to bathe.

The system of accounts remains much the same as heretofore.

The following are extracts from the governor's journal. Many of them, it will be observed, afford additional evidence to that already given (though no such addition can be required), showing the absolute necessity of much more stringent regulations than those now existing for preventing drinking, smoking, and gambling among the debtors:—

"October 22, 1849.—Found a party playing at cards in third-class debtors. Seized cards and cribbage board, the latter belonging to Mr. N.

"December 13.—A washerwoman to the debtors, detected in an attempt to convey about three pints of rum into the debtors' ward. Taken into custody, and case heard by E. D. Salisbury, Esq., Visiting Justice, who adjudged Mrs. A. to pay a penalty of 10*l.*, or in default to be imprisoned two months. Penalty paid.

"December 15.—Having discovered that the debtors of the third class, by an ingenious contrivance, got spirits in at the outer window of the Albion, and that they might do so by that of Belle Vue, I have,

with the consent of Mr. Bolden, Visiting Justice, ordered those windows to be stoned up.

"January 10, 1850.—Debtor E. B., found smoking, and a party playing at cards in third-class debtors. Cards, pipe, &c., seized.

"January 31.—The wife of debtor J. W., having stated that G. D. T., lately clerk to an attorney, had attempted to bribe her to bring spirits into the gaol, and having reason to believe her statement, I have directed that T. be no longer permitted to enter the castle.

"February 12.—Debtor W. A. locked up at 9 P.M. for being drunk and disorderly. The case was reported to the turnkeys by his fellow-debtors.

"February 15.—The same person locked up at 11½ A.M., for smoking.

"March 1.—I learn that debtor R.B. has broken his leg by 'larking' with another debtor on the stairs of the well tower. He has been taken to hospital, and the leg set by Mr. Langshaw; neither party was in liquor.

"April 4.—Ann, the wife of debtor H. H., detected in an attempt to bring spirituous liquor into the gaol. Case heard by John Bond, Esq., Visiting Justice, who adjudged the offender to pay penalty 10*l.*, or in default to be imprisoned two months. Penalty paid.

"April 10.—Martha, wife of debtor W. L., similarly detected, and imprisoned three months in default of payment of penalty.

"April 15.—Debtor H. H. locked up at 2 P.M., for being drunk. This is the husband of Ann H., lately convicted of attempting to smuggle spirits into gaol. He was brought to gaol drunk on 10th November last, but has never, until to-day, been seen in liquor here.

"May 11.—S. G., a debtor, brought into custody this evening, much in liquor. He denied his name. The officer who brought him, says he is scarcely ever sober out of doors.

"May 18.—V. A. H., aged about seven years, daughter of H. H., a debtor, and of A. H., (lately convicted of bringing spirits into gaol,) was detected this evening going into the castle with a tin of whiskey, and another of rum, under her dress. I procured the attendance of Mr. Satterthwaite, Visiting Justice, to whom the child stated that the spirits were concealed about her person by a spirit-dealer in Lancaster, in presence of her unprincipled mother. The justice declined convicting the child as being *non capax doli*, ordered her to be discharged and conveyed to the mother.

"The spirit-dealer afterwards satisfactorily disproved the child's statement as regarded him.

"May 26.—Debtor P. B. locked up at 6 P.M. This person was yesterday remanded by the Insolvent Court. He has been a soldier, and stated he had received a good-service medal. I regret to learn that the court was not made acquainted with the improper use he probably makes of his pension, so that some portion of it might be given to his creditors.

"May 28.—The surgeon notices, that on visiting the second-class debtors' rooms last night, he found some persons smoking and playing at cards. I caused that class to be visited this evening, when a party was found playing at cards, which were seized. I have ordered these domiciliary visits to be continued and extended.

"June 3.—We have in the debtors' hospital, a person named J. W., brought into custody in a state of insanity, the result I hear, of excessive drinking. The surgeon and I are taking steps with a view to his discharge under the Insolvent Act.

"*Note.*—He was discharged on the 20th September following, under the clause of the Act applicable to insane persons. The means of obtaining the discharge, were supplied from the Gaol Charity Fund.

"June 10.—Found Mr. E., clerk to an attorney, smoking in second-class debtors. Ordered him to be excluded the gaol in future.

"June 29.—Debtor R. H., was brought to gaol this evening, very drunk. The officer who arrested him, said he found him drunk.

"July 5.—Debtor C. C. (once an attorney in most respectable practice) came before me this afternoon, evidently the worse for liquor, and asked to be locked up in the strong room, lest he should get into mischief! I complied with his request.

"July 10.—A female has been in the habit of visiting debtor W. M., who admits that she is not his wife or relation. I have excluded her the gaol. She has never yet entered any of the rooms; but if she had, no improper intimacy could take place under our present visiting rules.

"July 10.—Debtor S. G. locked up at 3 P.M., for being drunk. He came drunk to gaol, and is, I fear, an incurable sot. His period of remand by the Insolvent Court, expires 15th instant, until which time he remains in the strong room.

"July 15.—Discharged out of custody. The unhappy man looked perfectly idiotic. I talked to him on the subject of the suicide by inches he was committing. His reply was 'I am a fool.'

"July 24.—The assistant matron reports to me that J. C., a female debtor, brought into custody this evening, under County Court process, is in liquor. A bottle of gin was found on her person, and taken from her. Directed her to be put into a sleeping-room apart from the other female debtors, who very properly decline associating with her.

"July 31.—Debtor P. K. was brought into custody this evening, very drunk. Put into the strong room.

"August 14.—Debtor C. N., locked up 10½ A.M., drunk.

"9. P.M.—Understanding that this man is subject to fits of despondency after the effects of drink, I have transferred him to hospital until the surgeon sees him."

The net average cost per prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was about 20*l.*, which is less by 2*l.*, than the general average in other prisons in England. This sum, however, does not of course include the cost of food and bedding provided by a portion of the debtors.

I made the following recommendations :*—

1. The convicted male prisoners belonging to the borough of Manchester to be removed without delay to the prison there, if the

* I am glad to be able to state that much has now been done towards carrying these recommendations into effect.—March, 1851.

magistrates of Manchester will consent to receive them; if not, negociations to be entered into, and authority applied for, for the removal of these prisoners to the prison at Salford, or to some other prison in the county; and similar arrangements to be made for the removal of all other male convicted prisoners.

2. With a view of carrying out one of the recommendations in my last Report, and in order to prevent the contamination which must at present take place among the untried male prisoners, such prisoners from this district to be in future committed to Preston, where there are separate cells for their reception (which there are not at Lancaster); there to remain until they are required at Lancaster for trial.

3. A rule to be framed directing that the male debtors shall be divided into four classes; viz.: 1st. Fraudulent debtors and County Court debtors who maintain themselves. 2nd. Fraudulent debtors and County Court debtors who do not maintain themselves. 3rd. Other debtors who do not maintain themselves. 4th. Other debtors who do maintain themselves. The Governor, however, subject to the control of the visiting justices, to be empowered to transfer a prisoner in any special case from any one class to any other class, and also to subdivide any of the classes.

4. All the male debtors, except those in the 4th class, to be placed in such of the wards on the Crown side as will be vacated on the removal of the convicted criminal male prisoners. The windows, however, of the galleries in the tower to be glazed.

5. The debtors in the 4th class to occupy the rooms to the west of the "Penitentiary," including, if they be found requisite, the room hitherto used as a school-room for male criminals, and the two rooms beneath. The room opening into the piazza to be fitted up as a kitchen for these debtors.

6. Such of the female prisoners as cannot be accommodated in the separate cells in the penitentiary (when these cells have been prepared and certified as fit for the separate confinement of prisoners), to be placed in the large rooms in John of Gaunt's tower, now occupied by male prisoners. All the female prisoners to have the use of the airing-yard into which the chapel opens.

7. A wall about 8 feet high to be thrown across the main yard of the castle, to run from the western side of the entrance to the penitentiary to the western side of the clock tower; and no male debtors to be henceforth permitted to come beyond this wall.

8. An entrance to be made for female prisoners, from the clock tower to the rooms in John of Gaunt's tower.

9. An opening to be made between the Penitentiary and the adjoining tower; and this tower to be added to the accommodation for female prisoners.

10. The false windows in the northern large room (which it is proposed to use as a work-room) to be opened in order to increase the light; and a small room for a female warder to be formed at the entrance of one of the large rooms which is intended to serve as a dormitory.

11. The locks and keys of the females' division of the prison to be different from those of the males; as required by law.

12. The following to be the classification of female prisoners to be put in separate cells:—

1. Such prisoners, whether tried or untried, as wish to be in separate cells.
2. Such prisoners, whether tried or untried, as in the opinion of the matron, are likely to exercise a bad influence over other prisoners.
3. Such prisoners, whether tried or untried, as are not in the foregoing classes, and are in prison for the first time.
4. If these three classes do not fill all the cells, then such other prisoners as, in the opinion of the matron, will be most benefited by the separate system.

13. In order to admit of the clothes of vagrants and of sick prisoners being washed separately from the clothing of the other prisoners, as recommended by the surgeon, and for the general improvement of the wash-house and laundry, the alterations in these room suggested by the matron, or any other alterations which may be deemed more suitable, to be made.

14. All the food to be cooked by female prisoners under the direction of a female officer; an arrangement which, among other advantages, will avoid the necessity of having two kitchens as at present.

15. Three more female warders to be appointed, making the complement of these warders five.

16. Such of the debtors as may desire it to be allowed to go into the bath once a month like other prisoners.

LANCASTER.—BOROUGH LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected 18th September 1850.]

There has not been any alteration since my Report last December.

The place was clean, but there was some writing on the walls.

The number of prisoners in the year ending November 8, 1850, was 371, which is about the same as in the previous year.

At the time of my visit there was one prisoner.

MANCHESTER.—BOROUGH PRISON.

[The Inspection began 13th September 1850.]

This is a new prison, which has been brought into use since the date of my last Annual Report.

The prison is about two miles from Manchester on the eastern side. The neighbourhood is flat, but it appears to be as high as the upper parts of the town. The soil, too, is clayey, but in that respect, also, the prison is not worse off than a great part of Manchester and its neighbourhood.

The situation is at present open, but considering the rapid extension of the town in all directions, it will probably, at no great distance of time, be surrounded by buildings. The quantity of land secured, however, about 18 acres, will be sufficient to prevent any great inconvenience therefrom.

The building has been constructed with a view to the exclusive use of the separate system, and is so similar in its arrangements to the prison at Pentonville, and several other prisons built on that model, and which have been fully described, that it is unnecessary to give a minute description of it. It may suffice to state that there are four wings radiating from a central hall; that these wings, one of which is appropriated to females, contain together 432 cells of the ordinary size, and warmed, ventilated, lighted, and fitted up in the usual manner; that there is a chapel and a number of airing-yards, the chapel being divided into separate stalls, and the airing-yards into separate compartments; that there is the usual supply of baths, kitchens, store-rooms, and other offices on the basement floor; that there are the ordinary rooms for the governor, clerk, and visiting justices near the central hall; and that there are houses for the governor, chaplain, and matron.

All the cells have been certified as fit for the separate confinement of prisoners.

Except some parts of the basement floor, and a few other places which are at present damp, but which probably will gradually cease to be so, the building was dry and in good general condition, but I do not consider it secure. Only a few of the windows have other than cast-iron frames, which could easily be broken, and there are no grated yard-doors to the entrances to the corridor, which is the more important, since owing to the corridor windows not having been made to open, the doors are frequently kept open for the sake of ventilation. About two months ago a prisoner nearly made his escape in consequence.

For several months the water-closets in the cells were very offensive, owing to a faulty construction; but the evil seems now to have been quite removed. During the continuance of the nuisance, sickness was warded off, probably to a considerable extent, by the governor having the cells frequently lime-washed; still among the females there was much illness.

The cost of the prison (including about 5000*l.*, the price of the land) but exclusive of the furniture, clothing, &c., was about 81,000*l.* which is at the rate of nearly 188*l.* per prisoner—a very great expense, but not so great as in some other instances.

The number of prisoners at the time of the inspection was 312 (215 males and 97 females), but the prison had not yet its complement, as there were still about 50 prisoners at Lancaster Castle, who belong to Manchester, and who would have been sent here had the prison been finished at the time of their trial.

The question of the removal of these prisoners from Lancaster is now under consideration, and I hope the removal will be effected without more delay. At Lancaster the prisoners are under circumstances in which they must become worse instead of better, and they are at the same time costing the borough much more than they would in their own prison.*

With a few slight modifications, the rules adopted are those recommended by the Secretary of State. The chief exceptions to their observance appeared to be, that hitherto the chaplain had not been able to give the prisoners religious instruction in classes, or to administer the sacrament.

Artificial light is provided throughout the prison, and the prisoners rise in winter and summer at half-past 5, and do not go to bed till 9. I should be glad if it could be arranged for them to rise yet earlier; but the present hours are very much better than in the generality of English prisons.

The chaplain, who appears to take a strong interest in his duties, stated as follows:—

"I enter the prison every morning at 8 o'clock, and at a quarter past 8 the prisoners assemble for daily prayers. The daily service lasts about half an hour. At its conclusion I commence visiting the prisoners from cell to cell, and to this latter duty I devote the chief part of my time. Owing to the large number of prisoners, however, and to my not having any assistance, I am not able to see each prisoner separately more frequently than once in about three weeks on an average. In performing this duty I have suffered much from the closeness of the cells. Even since the water-closets were made to act properly this closeness has continued. It is generally nearly 2 o'clock, and sometimes later, before I complete my round and leave the prison. Part of my time is occupied in superintending the duties of the schoolmaster and schoolmistress. I also, when there is a prospect of good arising from it, communicate either personally or by letter with the friends or former employers of prisoners, with a view of obtaining work for the prisoners on their release; but this duty is generally discharged after I have left the prison. On Sunday there are two full services, including a sermon. On an average I am in the prison about five hours daily in the performance of my duties, exclusive of the time

* Shortly after the date of this Report these prisons were removed, as suggested, from Lancaster to Manchester.

engaged in preparing my sermons, to which I devote the greater part of Saturday. The schoolmaster and schoolmistress give about eight hours a-day to the instruction of the prisoners. They teach reading, spelling, writing, and arithmetic, and also give a little religious instruction. The instruction in reading and arithmetic is given in the chapel, but owing to the construction of the chapel not admitting of ready access to the prisoners individually, it is difficult to give effective instruction in arithmetic, and no instruction can be given in the chapel in writing: this is taught in the separate cells. The prisoners would, in my opinion, make much greater progress in their school instruction if they were taught in classes, as in an ordinary school-room. Till the present high inspection boxes were provided, the conduct of some of the prisoners during divine service was often very bad. There was constant talking, frequent coughing, and occasional knocking; but a great improvement has taken place since there was more effective inspection. If the prisoners, however, were allowed to kneel, as it is very desirable they should, they would be out of sight of the officers even under the present arrangements, and the disturbances would probably be resumed."

The governor concurred in the foregoing statement of the chaplain regarding the conduct of the prisoners in chapel.

On this same matter the matron stated as follows:—

"The general conduct of the female prisoners has been good except at chapel, where, till lately, some of them have behaved very ill, often talking so loud as to interrupt the service. The prisoners can easily converse between the divisions of the stalls in the chapel, and until the raised inspection seats, which have lately been put up, were provided, it was impossible to find out who were doing so; but now such prisoners can be generally detected and punished, and the evil has been greatly reduced. If, however, the prisoners were to kneel in any part of the service, it would, I think, be still impossible to prevent, or scarcely to check, the talking. Having been an officer in Wakefield Prison, where, for a time, the prisoners were in separate stalls in chapel, but where the divisions were afterwards removed, I have had an opportunity of comparing the conduct of the prisoners in chapel under both arrangements, and I have found it to be much better where there are no divisions than where divisions exist: where there are no divisions the inspection is much better than where there are divisions."

Of the whole number of punishments that have been awarded (464), not fewer than 141 have been for misconduct in chapel.

All the prisoners have work of some kind; but it will appear by the following return that there is room for much improvement in this department. It will be remarked that the majority of the male prisoners, instead of being engaged in useful, active, and laborious work, are employed in picking cotton, &c.

ORDINARY OCCUPATIONS of the PRISONERS when at Large, with their Employment in Prison, on the Day of Inspection.

Ordinary Occupation when at large.	Convicted Prisoners.																				Not at Work.			
	Untried Prisoners.	Sentenced to Confinement for One Month, or under, or until Sureties are given.	Sentenced to Confinement for more than One Month.	Debtors.	Total.	Blacksmiths' and other Iron Work.	Carpenters' Work, &c.	Cleaning, &c., as a regular Employment and occupying the Prisoner the greater part of the day.	Cooking, &c.	Crank Labour not applied to any useful purpose.	Gardening, Field Labour, &c.	Knitting.	Mat-making.	Nursing, &c.	Picking Oakum, Wool, or Cotton, &c.	Shoe-making, Clog-making, &c.	Shirt-making, &c.	Tailors' Work, &c.	Washing, Ironing, &c.	Weaving.	Miscellaneous.	In Reception Cells.	In Cells for the Refractory.	Unable to Work from Illness.	Debtors Idle from choice.
MALES.																								
Bakers	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Blacksmiths, & other Workers in Iron	5	1	11	.	17*	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	12	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.
Butchers	.	1	2	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Carpenters, Joiners, Cabinet-makers, Coopers, &c.	2	.	7	.	9	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	1	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.
Clerks, &c.	2	.	4	.	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	1	.
Hawkers and Pedlars	2	.	6	.	8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	4	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Labourers (Agricultural)	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ditto (other)	5	6	30	.	41	.	.	.	2	.	1	.	2	.	29	1	.	.	.	1	1	2	2	.
Masons, Bricklayers, &c.	.	1	3	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Miners	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Painters	1	.	4	.	5	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sailors, Boatmen, &c.	1	1	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Shoemakers, &c.	2	1	4	2	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Soldiers	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Spinners, &c.	1	4	21	.	26	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	19	1	.	3	.	.	.	1	1	.
Tailors	1	1	4	1	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	1
Weavers	2	1	10	.	13†	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	1	.	6	1	.	.	.	2	.	.	1	.
Miscellaneous	21	8	26	.	55	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	46	1	.	1	.	.	.	4	1	1
Not brought up to any regular Occupation	.	1	5	.	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total of Males	45	26	141	3	215	1	4	3	3	1	2	.	9	.	142	14	.	10	.	3	4	8	3	5	3
FEMALES.																								
Married Women	5	6	20	.	31	.	.	.	.	.	.	11	.	.	4	.	2	.	5	.	.	1	.	5	.
Servants (Unmarried)	4	1	9	.	14	.	.	1	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	5	.	4	.	.	1	.	1	.
Miscellaneous (Unmarried)	6	7	32	.	45	.	.	6	.	.	.	14	.	1	6	.	10	.	8	.	.	2	.	.	.
Unmarried, not brought up to any regular Occupation	1	5	1	.	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	2	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.
Total of Females	16	19	62	.	97	.	.	7	.	.	.	28	.	1	12	.	20	.	17	.	.	4	.	8	.

* Of these 17—5 are merely strikers, 2 are plumbers, 2 millwrights and engineers, and the remainder have been merely labourers and jobbers about works, or brought up to no trade whatever.

† Of these 13—4 are steam-loom weavers who have never worked by hand, 3 are steam-loom weavers who have worked also by hand, 2 are hand-loom weavers and are employed, the remainder are silk weavers, and such as have had no regular employments.

I examined some of the prisoners in their progress under the schoolmaster and schoolmistress, but owing to the want of more precise entries in many cases of the state of the prisoners' education on admission, I had much difficulty in judging of their progress. In arithmetic, however, the male prisoners appeared to have improved very satisfactorily.

The library is very small at present, but the books were in a good state.

The building was clean, and the prisoners were clean in their persons; but, owing apparently to the cinders which are in the airing-yards and elsewhere, the prisoners' linen soon becomes dirty. Owing in part probably to the same cause also, and to the want of pillow slips, part of the bedding was dirty.

As the prison stands on clay, it is desirable that a great quantity of dry material, such as cinders, should be laid down; but, perhaps, a firm and clean surface may ultimately be obtained for the airing-yards and the roads leading to them.

The matron stated as follows:—

"The linen of the prisoners becomes dirty much more rapidly than was the case at Wakefield, owing, in part, to their being as a class less cleanly in their habits than the prisoners we received at Wakefield; but in part, also, to the floors of the cells being made of a dark-coloured asphalte. In order, apparently, to keep the colour as black as possible, the prisoners bring in cinders from the airing-yards and rub the floors with them, thereby causing a great quantity of black dust."

The clothing and bedding were sufficient in quantity.

The dietary is that lately recommended by the Secretary of State. The food was of good quality; but it appeared that the majority of the male prisoners (the female prisoners have not hitherto been weighed) on either of the first three rates, especially those on the third, lost flesh, and that it was only those on the highest rate (few in number) who in a majority of cases gained flesh.

The following is a return on the subject:—

A Return showing how many Male Prisoners who have been Discharged, or who are now in the Prison Three Months, classed according to the rates of Diet, have Increased or Lost in Weight since the opening of the Prison, with the Average of Increase and Decrease in each Class.

Diet Class.	Total Number on each Class.	Increase.			Decrease.			Number who remained without change.	Whole Average.	
		Numbers.	Aggregate Increase.	Average.	Number.	Aggregate Number.	Average.		Increase.	Decrease.
			lbs.	lbs.		lbs.	lbs.		lbs.	lbs.
Class 1	76	21	48½	2·31	27	76½	2·83	28	. .	·37
Class 2	106	32	78¼	2·44	48	176¼	3·67	26	. .	·92
Class 3	202	51	131	2·57	98	470½	4·8	53	. .	1·68
Class 4	110	42	170½	4·06	42	227½	5·41	26	. .	·51
Class 5	51	30	249¾	8·32	15	128	8·53	6	2·39	. .

It will be seen by the surgeon's evidence that he does not consider the two lower rates sufficient to maintain health and strength, but that, owing to the shortness of the periods during which prisoners are kept on these rates, they produce no material or permanent injury.

With regard to the female prisoners, the matron was of opinion that the allowance of food was sufficient, except to those who were employed at washing, but that their allowance was insufficient.

Most of the male prisoners had the appearance of being in good health, but there were many sick among the females. The matron stated as follows:—

"The general health of the female prisoners has been bad, and I and the two female warders who have been longest in the prison have also suffered in health. The prevailing disorder has been a disordered stomach, accompanied with some fever. There has, however, been only one death, and in that case the prisoner had a broken constitution, caused by eating opium. The chief causes of sickness, in my opinion, have been the state of the soil-pans in the cells, the want of better ventilation in the corridors, and the want of better means of carrying off the steam and water in the wash-house and the heated air in the laundry. The state of the soil-pans, however, has now been remedied, and I believe measures are about to be taken for improving the state of the wash-house. The infirmary and the punishment cells are damp; but the infirmary is not now used in consequence of its dampness."

The medical attendant stated as follows:—

"The male prisoners are generally in good health at present; but there is an excess of sickness among the females. The state of health, indeed, among the female prisoners has not been satisfactory from the time the prison was first opened; but the health of the male prisoners has been generally good. I have heard the statement read which the matron has made respecting the health of the female prisoners, and the probable causes of sickness among them; and I consider that statement correct. In addition, however, to the causes mentioned by the matron, I am of opinion that the females have suffered in health from the insufficient exercise which they have had in the airing-yards. I have often noticed them while in these yards, and I have frequently seen them creeping along in a way that must almost neutralize any good effect to be obtained by the exercise. There are at present six female prisoners and four males who are too unwell to work, all of them, indeed, except one, being confined to bed; one of the female cases, however, is a case of pregnancy. Of these ten cases I consider three only to be serious. In one of these the party was ill on admission; but in two they were in good health. The female infirmary, the female punishment cells, and some of the male punishment cells are at present damp; but the female infirmary and such of the male punishment cells as are damp are not used. Probably after a time all will become dry. The building is still new. The prisoners who are committed for long periods, and who, in consequence, receive the higher rates of food, generally improve, I think, in health and strength; but most of those who are sent for short terms fall off, but not to an extent

materially or permanently to impair their health. I do not consider the allowance of food more than sufficient to maintain health and strength in any cases; and as respects prisoners in the three lower rates, I think it insufficient; but as I have already stated, the injury done in these cases is not, in my opinion, material or permanent.

"I have not seen any evidence of the insufficiency of the allowance of food to the washerwomen. I think the sickness among these women is caused by the wash-house being unhealthy, owing to there not being a proper escape for the steam."

The general conduct of the prisoners (except, till lately, in chapel) was reported to have been tolerably good. There have, however, been five cases of corporal punishment since the prison was opened—a punishment seldom resorted to now, especially where the separate system is in use.

The prison was not constructed with a view to the admission of debtors; but some have been committed under a local Act, the provisions in which for sending debtors from a certain Court to the borough gaol, if such a prison should be built, seem to have been overlooked. At the time of the inspection there were three debtors from this Court.

It is desirable that a contract should be entered into for transferring such prisoners to Salford.

No rules have been sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the regulation of debtors here.

There were two prisoners who, on their trial, were found to be insane. One of them, however, is not now so considered by the medical attendant. The other is regarded as imbecile, and it is desirable that he should be removed to an asylum.

Two prisoners complained that they had not food enough, one apparently with reason (for he had lost 15 pounds); and the debtors complained that their visitors were not allowed to remain more than a quarter of an hour. I called the attention of the surgeon to the first case; and, with regard to the latter, I pointed out to the governor that there was at present no rule authorizing this restriction, and he immediately gave orders for its discontinuance.

The registers and accounts were in a very satisfactory state, and such as to reflect credit on Mr. Longmore, the clerk, who had had the arrangement of several of the forms used.

All the chief articles of food and other stores are supplied by public contract.

It will have been seen that the work department is not yet in an efficient state (indeed, where, as in this prison, the separate system is exclusively used, it can never, in my opinion, be made very satisfactory), and that there is room for much improvement in other respects. Still there was much to reflect credit on the governor, matron, and other officers.

As a means of testing, to a certain extent, the deterring effects

of the prison (so far as the present short experience affords the means of judging), I called for a return of the number of liberations and recommitments since it was opened, and for a similar return, for the same period, from the prison at Salford, where there is but little separation, but more active work; and I found that the returns showed a less number of recommitments from Salford prison even out of a greater number of prisoners; for of 694 prisoners who had been liberated from Manchester prison during the six months that it had been in use, 54 had been recommitted (9 twice and 2 three times); while of 1,068 prisoners liberated from Salford prison during the same period, only 45 had been recommitted (6 twice and 2 three times).

I called the attention of the visiting justices to the various matters in this Report which appeared to require their consideration.

CHESHIRE.

CHESTER.—COUNTY PRISON.

[The Inspection began April 12th, 1850.]

The alteration in the building mentioned in the last Report (dated February, 1849) has been completed. By this alteration 14 additional cells for females have been obtained.

A large new tank has also been constructed in the roof of the prison.

There did not appear to have been any other change of importance either in the building or discipline.

The building seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners in the year ending the 31st of March, 1850, was 158, which is 27 more than the average in the previous year. The governor accounted for the increase by stating that more prisoners are now sent after trial to undergo their imprisonment here than formerly.

I found the following to be the chief exceptions to the observance of the rules:—

1. The cells which are used for the separate confinement of prisoners have not been certified as fit for such use; but the surgeon stated that he considered them suitable for it, and that he had not seen any ill effects arise from their being so employed.*

2. The prisoners in separate cells have not been visited daily in private by the chaplain (which I consider impracticable); or the prisoners generally at stated times in private.

3. Some of the debtors' sleeping rooms were not in proper order, and there was a smell of tobacco smoke in one of their day-rooms.

* These cells have now been certified.—May, 1850.

The improvements in the work department mentioned in the last Report continue in full operation.

The system of tasks is in full operation.

The Chaplain stated as follows:—

"On Sunday I perform full service twice, and I read prayers and deliver a lecture daily. About twice a week I have a class of prisoners for either religious or secular instruction. I see every prisoner in private on his admission and discharge, and each day see some other prisoners in private. I superintend the schools, and occasionally examine the prisoners in their progress, and give the juvenile prisoners hymns and portions of the Scriptures to commit to memory. When a prisoner is about to leave who has no work to go to, I endeavour to procure work for him, and sometimes, with the kind assistance of the county magistrates, give him a little work myself until he can get other employment. As far as practicable also, I keep up a superintendence, by correspondence and visiting, over prisoners after their liberation. On an average I pass between four and five hours per day in the prison in the discharge of my duties. On the whole the prisoners make satisfactory progress both in religious and secular knowledge. The general conduct of the prisoners when at chapel or otherwise under my charge has been remarkably good. I do not think I have had to report two prisoners for misconduct in the last two years. A private admonition I find to be almost always sufficient to prevent the repetition of any misconduct. By treating them with kindness, I succeed in obtaining great influence over them; indeed, I believe that many of them would almost lay their lives down for me. I think the discipline in use here calculated, when applied for a sufficient length of time, greatly to improve the character of the prisoners, and in point of fact we have but few recommitments: but with respect to its general tendency to deter people from the commission of crime I am doubtful. Several cases have come to my knowledge during the last year, of parties who were once in this prison for offences bespeaking habits of crime, who are now living honestly and respectably."

The schoolmaster gives about six hours per day to the business of teaching, and the schoolmistress three hours. The male prisoners are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic; and the females reading and writing. I examined some of the prisoners, and found their progress, on the whole, satisfactory. The book of specimens of the writing of the female prisoners, on admission and liberation, in particular, showed very considerable improvement.

Except some of the debtors' rooms, and with a few exceptions, as regards the bedding of the criminal prisoners, the prison was clean throughout and the prisoners were clean in their persons.

The bedding was sufficient, but some of the clothing was out of repair.

The dietary is that lately recommended by the Secretary of State. The food was of good quality.

The prisoners had the appearance of being in tolerably good health. The surgeon stated as follows:—

"The prisoners are at present in good health, and, except during the months of September and October last, when diarrhœa was prevalent, and there were four cases of cholera, the general health of the prisoners has been good since the last inspection. There are six prisoners who are too unwell to work or to do more than light work, but none of the cases are serious. A long imprisonment developes scrofula, but with this exception, there is no disease to which the prisoners are more liable than persons in the same class of life out of prison. The majority of the prisoners, even of those who remain for long periods, improve in health."

The general conduct of the prisoners appeared to have been good. The number of punishments last year was less than two per prisoner. The chief offences are idleness and talking.

There was no case of corporal punishment.

All the male debtors have access to the same yard and at the same time; so that there is no effectual classification among them.

Two or three prisoners made complaints, but on examination their complaints were found to be groundless.

The registers and account-books were in a proper state, but there had been some errors in the manner of making up the last annual return; and for want of a stock-book (which however is now commenced), and of a proper balance sheet, it was difficult to say what had been the profit from the work last year.

The net cost per prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was about 26*l.*; which is 4*l.* above the general average in England, and 10*l.* above the average in Scotland.

The entries in the visiting justices' book were frequent, and expressed satisfaction with the state of the prison.

The general result of the inspection was creditable to Mr. Dunstan, the governor, to the Rev. Henry Joseph, the chaplain, to Mrs. Bennion, the matron, and to the other officers.

I made the following recommendations:—

1. As a general rule, every prisoner to go into a separate cell, for a few days at least, on his admission, and for a day or two before his liberation.

2. The prisoners to bathe in tepid water, once at least in every month.

3. The different classes of the debtors not to have access to the airing yard at the same hours of the day; and county court debtors and other fraudulent debtors to be entirely separated from the rest of the debtors.

4. The rule forbidding the debtors to have access to their bed rooms to be extended to Friday.

CHESTER.—CITY PRISON.

[Inspected April 13th, 1850.]

In accordance with the recommendations contained in my last Report (dated February, 1849), preparations have been made for lighting the prison throughout with gas; but owing to the corporation not having been able to agree with the gas company respecting the rate of charge, the gas has hitherto been but little used, and the prisoners have consequently continued to pass a great deal of time in bed; but I hope that this evil will soon be removed. The ventilation where it was defective has been improved; but the recommendation that the governor should be authorized to keep the stock of clothing complete has not been acted upon, and the consequence is, that as heretofore, the supply of clothing was insufficient and some of it was ragged.

There did not appear to have been any other change in the building or discipline.

The building seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 48, which is 2 more than the average in the previous year; but latterly the number has diminished considerably. On the day of the inspection it was 36.

Uncertified cells continue to be used to a considerable extent for separate confinement, but the surgeon stated that he had not seen any ill effect to arise as regards the health of the prisoners.

The chief kinds of work continue to be stone-breaking, mat-making, and sewing. The produce is but small (last year about 3*l.* per head), though greater than in the generality of English prisons.

The chaplain stated as follows :—

"I come to the prison every morning at nine, and read prayers. I then see all prisoners who have arrived since my visit on the previous day, or who are about to be discharged. I then generally visit the school and examine some of those who are receiving instruction, and next see some of the prisoners in private. On two days of the week I have a class of prisoners for religious instruction, and on Sunday I perform two full services, including a sermon. On an average I pass two hours per day in the prison. The prisoners make satisfactory progress both in religious and secular knowledge. The general conduct of the prisoners when at chapel or otherwise under my charge has been satisfactory. I consider the discipline of this prison calculated to deter people from the commission of crime; and were it not for the shortness of most of the periods of imprisonment, I think it would materially improve the characters of the prisoners."

Few of the prisoners had remained long enough to make much progress in reading and writing, but on the whole their examination in these respects was tolerably satisfactory.

Some of the books were not in a proper state for use.

Part of the prison wanted whitewashing, and there were some broken panes of glass. In other respects the prison was in good order, and the prisoners were clean in their persons; but on my arrival, which was at an early hour in the morning, I found several prisoners together in different parts of the prison, cleaning without any immediate superintendence.

The bedding was sufficient, but as already stated the clothing was insufficient.

The dietary is that lately recommended by the Secretary of State, and I found the food of good quality.

The prisoners seemed to be in good health. The surgeon stated as follows:—

"The prisoners are at present in very good health, and the general state of their health has been very good since the last inspection. There is no serious case of illness at present, and there is only one prisoner who is sufficiently unwell (with an inflammation of the eyes) to be unable to work. There has not been any epidemic in the prison since the last inspection. There is no disease to which the prisoners are more liable than persons in the same class of life out of prison. More of the prisoners, even of those who remain for considerable periods, improve in health during their confinement than fall off."

The general conduct of the prisoners was also reported to have been good. The chief offence is breaking the rule respecting silence.

County Court debtors are separated from other debtors.

No prisoner made any complaint.

The average net cost per prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was about 18*l.*, which is 4*l.* below the general average in English prisons.

Such entries as had been made of visits by the visiting justices were creditable to the governor and the other officers; but there were many months without any entry.

CHESTER.—CITY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected April 13th, 1850.]

There has been no alteration since the last Report, in February 1849.

The place was clean.

There were 3 prisoners, neither of whom made any complaint.

It will be seen by the following return that there was a considerable decrease last year in the number of prisoners.

Number of Prisoners locked up at the Police Office, Chester, during the years 1847, 1848, 1849.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1847 . . .	861	341	1202
1848 . . .	812	392	1204
1849 . . .	675	350	1025

MACCLESFIELD.—BOROUGH LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected 12th September 1850.]

Since this lock-up house was last reported on by an Inspector of Prisons, a provision has been made for warming the cells.

Part of the place wanted whitewashing; otherwise it was clean.

The number of prisoners last year was 793 (of whom 149 were females), which is less by more than a hundred than the number in the previous year.

At the time of my visit there were two prisoners.

It is desirable that the ventilation should be improved, which could readily be done; that the small airing-yard should be made secure by placing bars over the top; that night-vessels, such as are used in the prison at Derby, should be procured; and that a communication should be made between the lock-up house and the house occupied by one of the constables, so as to have the advantage of a resident keeper and matron.

KNUTSFORD.—COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[The Inspection commenced 23rd September 1850.]

In accordance with one of the recommendations in my last Report (dated January 1849), an additional female officer has been engaged; the ventilation of some of the cells has been improved; and, for the sake of security, the inner gate of the porter's lodge is kept locked by night as well as by day; but the following recommendations have not been acted upon:—

1. The prison to be made more secure by having strong wrought-iron bars fixed outside a number of the windows, so that no prisoner who is at all likely to attempt to escape may be in a cell which has only a cast-iron frame.

2. Every convicted prisoner to be required to perform a daily task, equal to 10 hours' fair labour. The time in bed in no case to exceed nine hours, and when practicable to be reduced still further.

The treadwheel (the power of which is applied to pumping water) has been enlarged, and divisions have been put up to keep the prisoners separate. Some cranks have also been provided for pumping.

I was glad to find that the divisions in the chapel had been removed, so that the social character of the worship has been increased, and the prisoners brought more completely within the view of the chaplain. The chaplain spoke in very favourable terms of the effect of the alteration; indeed it will be seen by his statement that the conduct of the prisoners in chapel is excellent.

Divine service in this prison is made more pleasing and impressive by the addition of instrumental music.

All that remains to be desired with regard to the chapel is the removal of the iron palisades in front of the prisoners.

The buildings appeared to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 290, which is 21 less than the average of the previous year. At the time of the inspection the number was 295, of whom 51 were females.

I found the following to be the chief exceptions to the observance of the rules:—

1. The governor does not reside within the prison walls for want of accommodation; but his house is near the prison.

2. A few cells are used to a considerable extent for the separate confinement of prisoners, which have not been certified as fit for such use; but the surgeon stated that no injury to health had resulted therefrom.

3. The prisoners are not seen by the chaplain periodically in private. Every prisoner, however, is seen by the chaplain in private before his liberation, and most of them are so seen on their admission.

The chief kinds of work are picking wool, pumping, handloom weaving, tailors' work, clog-making, washing, &c. A few also are employed at mat-making, joiners' and blacksmiths' work.

The produce of the labour, though small, is greater than in most English prisons.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"I commence duty at half-past nine in the morning with the daily service, which, with the time occupied by the prisoners in entering and leaving the chapel, lasts about half an hour. I then see each prisoner, in private, who is about to be discharged, and advise with him according to the exigencies of the case; directing him not only with respect to his spiritual welfare, but how to get honest employment, so that he may keep out of prison for the future. Whenever I think it practicable and useful, I write also to the clergyman of his parish, or to some other party, to request him to second my counsels. I then see, in private, as many of the prisoners that have recently arrived as I have time to see, and such other prisoners as have expressed a wish to see me in private. I also visit the sick daily, and almost daily visit the schools; the females' school every day. I daily visit the prisoners also who are under punishment. These and other miscellaneous duties, together with the performance of the full services on the Sunday, occupy me on an average about four hours each day. The prisoners make satisfactory progress both in religious and secular knowledge. The prisoners are most attentive in chapel, and their general conduct when under my charge is very good. I am of opinion that the present system of discipline in this prison, particularly as respects the male prisoners, has a very considerable deterring effect; and that when applied for a sufficient time, it tends also materially to improve the characters of the prisoners. Owing, however, to the want

of the means of placing more than a very few female prisoners in separate cells, neither of these effects can be obtained in the same degree with them; indeed, there must often be contamination instead of improvement among these prisoners, as must be the case also among such of the male prisoners as sleep three in a cell. Several cases have come to my knowledge within the last year of parties who were once in this prison for offences bespeaking habits of crime, but who are now living honestly and respectably. As far as practicable I take means, by visits, correspondence, and otherwise, to ascertain the career of prisoners after their liberation, and to preserve an influence over them."

The matron had kindly received into her employment, as a servant, a young woman whose relatives had refused to assist her in consequence of her offence (fraud), and she spoke highly of her conduct; indeed, she said she should be sorry to part with her.

I examined some of the prisoners in reading and writing, and found the progress of the females, on the whole, very satisfactory; but that of the male prisoners was less creditable.

There is a good library, and most of the books were in good condition.

The prison was very clean throughout, and the prisoners were clean in their persons.

The clothing and bedding were sufficient, and in a good state.

The dietary lately recommended by the Secretary of State has been adopted, and the surgeon stated that he considered the allowance of food sufficient, and not more than sufficient.

The food is of good quality. Its average daily cost per head last year was $3\frac{3}{4}d.$

Most of the prisoners had a healthy appearance, and the medical attendant stated as follows:—

"The recent state of the heath of the prisoners is good, and, on the whole, has been good since Mr. Hill's last inspection. There are but few cases at present in which a prisoner is sufficiently unwell to be unable to do his ordinary work, and there is no serious case of illness. There has not been any epidemic in the prison since the last inspection. There is not any disease to which the prisoners are more liable than persons in the same class of life out of prison. Prisoners confined for short periods generally improve in health, but after an imprisonment of about 18 months' duration the health generally falls off; not from any peculiar cause, but from the general effect of long confinement in one spot. I have remarked that persons accustomed to a meat diet commonly lose weight and firmness of muscle for a time, but that they generally recover both after they have become habituated to our diet, which contains but little animal food. I very seldom have to order an increased allowance of meat; milk I find a panacea for almost every failing arising from a want of nutriment."

It appeared that of 1,944 prisoners received during the last

year, 1,697 were in good health on their admission, and 247 were in bad health; while of 1,919 who had left during the same time, 1,838 had departed in good health, and only 81 in bad health.

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good. The average number of punishments last year was 5 per prisoner, which is less than the general average in other prisons.

Only two prisoners made any complaint, and in neither case did there appear to be ground for complaint.

The registers and accounts were in a very satisfactory state. The accounts are audited by the poor law auditor of the district; an arrangement which it is desirable should be generally adopted.

The chief articles of consumption are purchased by public contract.

The net average cost per prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was about 18*l.*, which is 4*l.* less than the general average in England.

The entries in the visiting justices' minute-book showed a system of frequent visits on their part.

The general result of the inspection was creditable to Mr. Gallop (the governor), the Rev. Mr. Mitchell (the chaplain), and to the other officers. This result was the more satisfactory, as the inspection took place in the governor's absence (on leave) when a few irregularies might have been excusable.

All the cells now used as night cells only by the female prisoners might, at a very moderate expense, be prepared for separate confinement, by day as well as by night: one of the large sewing-rooms being used as a dormitory as well as a work-room for the other prisoners, with a portion curtained off for a female officer. And if such of the male prisoners as cannot be placed at night in separate cells were also to sleep in a large dormitory, under supervision (as is the case with a number of prisoners at Portland), instead of being distributed, as at present, three in a cell, much contamination, I am convinced, would be prevented.

The ventilation of the prison might be considerably improved by making much larger openings in the windows of the large corridors, and in the windows on the staircases and galleries, and by putting grated doors between the passages in Wards Nos. 2 and 3 and the store-room.

KNUTSFORD.—COUNTY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected 24th September 1850.]

A new lock-up house has been built, and the bad one, described in my Thirteenth Report, has been wholly discontinued.

This new lock-up house is in a good situation at the outskirts

of the town, and near the Court-house and prison. It contains three cells, with rooms for a keeper and his wife.

The cells are of about the same size as those in Pentonville Prison, and are warmed and ventilated in a similar manner. It appears to have been originally intended that, in addition to the provision for ventilation by the extraction of air by means of a draught created by heated air, part of each window should be made to open—a very desirable arrangement; but that by inadvertence the window-frame had been put in the wrong way, so that no part could be opened.

It was stated that after being several times altered, the warming apparatus now worked well; but that in the cell, where vagrants and drunken people were generally placed, the air became offensive; which, so far as my observation extends, is always the case in lock-up houses where the windows do not open.

The cells are properly lighted with glazed windows, and appear to be quite secure.

There was a proper supply of bedding.

There is no regular dietary. The keeper stated that he generally gave the prisoners coffee and bread for breakfast bacon, potatoes, and bread for dinner; and porridge for supper.

The place was clean and neat.

There were 86 prisoners last year; of whom 31 were females. One of the latter had been in six times in the last eight months.

At the time of my visit the place was empty.

The keeper and his wife had a respectable appearance, and seemed to be well qualified for their duties.

Except as regards the ventilation, this lock-up house appears to be well adapted for its purposes.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

HUNTINGDON.—COUNTY PRISON.

[Inspected 8th March, 1850.]

In accordance with one of the recommendations in my last Report, the debtors have no longer access to their bed-rooms during the day; but the following recommendations have not been adopted:—

1. The ventilation of the chapel and of the tread-wheel to be improved in the way pointed out to the governor.
2. The prisoners to be weighed on admission and liberation.
3. The entrance to the new wing to be made more secure.
4. The dress of the convicted prisoners to be made complete by the addition of shoes, braces, &c., and the untried prisoners to be allowed the use of the prison dress as directed by the 127th rule.

5. As far as practicable, the shoes, stockings, and other clothing to be made by the prisoners, and every other kind of work required for the prison to be performed by them; matmaking also, and other kinds of useful work for sale, to be introduced.

6. An effective provision to be made for the instruction of the prisoners in reading and writing.

7. The selection of prisoners for separate confinement to be made according to the classification recommended in my Fourteenth Annual Report, page 30.

8. When the new wing is brought into use, the prisoners to rise all the year round not later than at six, and not go to bed before nine at night. Every convicted prisoner also to be then required to perform a daily task equal to 10 hours' fair labour.

The new wing mentioned in the last Report has been completed; but up to the time of my visit it had been but little used, except for sleeping in, as the cells had not till then been certified as fit for the separate confinement of prisoners.

The wing contains 60 cells of the usual size in three double tiers; the doors of the two upper tiers opening upon hanging galleries. In the basement floor, there are two reception cells, two cells for refractory prisoners, three baths, a kitchen with store-rooms, &c.

A new infirmary has also been built, containing three rooms for males, and three for females.

The new wing is not, in my opinion, secure. Some of the windows in the basement floor are made of cast iron only, and where there are wrought iron bars in this part of the building, these are too far apart; and throughout the wing the wrought iron bars are weak for want of a cross bar.

Another source of danger is the great number of entrances to the wing. There are not fewer than five outer doors, whereas, in my opinion, there should be only one. And these outer doors are single, instead of each having a guard-door with a different lock. Again the angles in the new outer wall are in some places too sharp, and afford the means of escape by climbing, as a sweep climbs up a chimney.

The usual mode of warming has been departed from by bringing the warm air, in the first instance, into flues running underneath each side of the floor of the hall, with which the cells communicate; but this change appears to be anything but an improvement, as much heat, which is wanted for the cells, seems to be thrown into the hall, where it is of little use. In fact, the apparatus bath for warming and ventilating, works more feebly than in most of the new prisons that I have seen; indeed, in the basement-floor it is at present quite a failure. Part of this floor also, is not yet dry.

The cell windows are made to open, of which I approve; but the action should have been reversed, so as to prevent a

prisoner from seeing into the females' yard, which many of them can now do.

The building appeared to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 62, which is 3 more than the average in the previous year, and 20 more than the average in 1847. During the last two months, however, there has been a considerable diminution in the number of prisoners, as compared with the corresponding months of last year.

On the day of my visit there were 64 prisoners.

The following appeared to me the chief exceptions to the observance of the rules:—

1. There is no notice board cautioning persons from bringing spirits, tobacco, or other forbidden articles into the prison.

2. Very little employment is provided for prisoners not sentenced to hard labour.

3. The prison dress of many of the convicted prisoners is not complete; such of them as have good shoes and stockings of their own, being required to wear them instead of being supplied with shoes and stockings belonging to the prison. Moreover, untried prisoners are not allowed to wear the prison dress unless their own clothes are unfit for use.

4. The chaplain is not in the habit of seeing every prisoner at stated times in private.

5. There is no schoolmaster or other sufficient provision for the instruction of the prisoners.

6. There is no effectual classification of the debtors.

The prisoners pass a great deal too much time in bed; in mid-winter more than fifteen hours out of the twenty-four.

Most of the prisoners being agricultural labourers, it is desirable that the chief work of the prison should be adapted to that class of persons; and this object might be attained to a considerable extent, by taking in four or five acres of the land adjoining the prison grounds, and converting it into a market garden for the supply of the prison, and for sale at Cambridge.

Many of the prisoners have hitherto been idle, and the labour of the others has been next to worthless, consisting chiefly of tread-wheel labour.

The prison was clean throughout and the prisoners were clean in their persons.

The bedding is sufficient, but, as already stated, the supply of clothing is not what the rules require.

With the additions made in some cases by the surgeon, the dietary appears to be sufficient and the quality of the food was good. Its daily cost, per head, last year was $4\frac{1}{4}d.$ which is about the general average in other prisons.

The prisoners had a tolerably healthy appearance. The surgeon stated as follows:—

"The prisoners are at present in pretty good health. There are three or four prisoners who are not able to work, but only one of the cases is serious. The general health of the prisoners has been pretty good since Mr. Hill's visit last May. There has not been any epidemic or other prevailing disease among them. At the end of six or nine months, however, the majority of the prisoners fall off considerably in health, and require either extra food or exemption from tread-wheel labour."

The surgeon attributed much of the illness to the tread-wheel labour, which may be partly explained by the want of ventilation in the mill.

There is no index to show the number of turns which the mill makes; but the governor said that he was certain that the maximum quantity of tread-wheel labour allowed by the rules was never exceeded, and that in summer it was found necessary to give much less than this maximum.

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good. The chaplain, however, stated that the untried prisoners did each other much injury by their association, and that it was very desirable that they should be placed in separation.

The number of punishments last year was 156, or about 2 per prisoner. The chief offences are breaches of the rule enforcing silence.

Only one prisoner made any complaint and his complaint was found on inquiry to be frivolous.

The register and accounts were in a proper state; and the form of accounts appears to afford a sufficient check on the disbursements.

The average cost per prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was 22*l.*; which is the general average cost of prisoners in England, though 6*l.* above the average in Scotland.

The governor is evidently a zealous and efficient officer, but the system of discipline which he is required to carry into effect is far from satisfactory.

FLETTON.—COUNTY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected June 3rd, 1850.]

There has not been any alteration since my last Report (dated June, 1849), the recommendations in that Report not having been carried into effect.

Two men, charged with a very serious case of burglary, lately made their escape from this lock-up house in a way which would have been impossible, had the measures which I suggested for rendering the place more secure been adopted. I was informed that these men belonged to a notorious gang of

thieves. It is greatly to be regretted that they have been let loose again on society.

I found the place clean.

During the last year there have been 42 prisoners, which is about the same number as in the previous year.

There was one prisoner at the time of my visit.

I made the following recommendations, embodying those which I made at my last visit.

1. A secure day-room to be formed, as explained on the spot to Colonel Vaughan and Mr. Strong, out of one of the rooms intended for a keeper.

As prisoners are not confined here for a night merely, but are sometimes remanded for more than a week, it is necessary to have other accommodation than the sleeping cells.

2. Except in very peculiar cases, only one prisoner to be permitted to be in the day-room at a time.

3. Two iron-grated doors to be put in the places pointed out.

4. The cell-doors to be lined with sheet-iron; and small wickets (not exceeding 5 inches square) to be put in them, in order to avoid the necessity of opening the doors to give the prisoners food.

5. Two night-vessels, such as those in use in Lincoln Castle, to be procured, so as to avoid the necessity, when it is desirable to avoid it, of taking a prisoner to the privy; and a few pairs of list-shoes to be procured, in order that a prisoner may be deprived of his boots, which might sometimes be used as formidable weapons.

6. The privy, and the rest of the slight building, of which it forms part, to be strengthened in the ways pointed out; and a proper place to be made for the nightsoil.

7. The allowance of food to those who are maintained by the county to be restricted to a pound and a half of bread daily, to be given in three equal meals; but the quantity of bedding to be increased.

SUFFOLK.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION FOR THE LIBERTY OF BURY.

[The Inspection commenced April 23rd, 1850.]

In accordance with some of the suggestions in my last Report (in May, 1849), all the tailors' work required for the prison is now done by the prisoners, and to some extent the shoemaking also; the cells in one of the wards have been prepared for being certified

as fit for the separate confinement of prisoners, though no certificate has yet been given ;* all convicted prisoners are now supplied with a prison dress, and all untried prisoners are allowed to wear it; and a provision has been made for having nearly all the prisoners when associated in classes under constant superintendence.

The Amended Dietary, lately recommended by the Secretary of State, has been adopted.

There did not appear to have been any other alterations either in the buildings or discipline.

The untried male prisoners, and most of the convicted who are not sentenced to hard labour, still pass their time in idleness; though the governor thinks that if useful employment were provided for them, most of them would be willing to work.

The buildings appeared to be in good repair.

There was an escape a few months ago, in consequence of a plumber, who was employed in the prison, having left a ladder about. The prisoner, who, the governor said, was a wild fellow who had lived part of his life with gipsies, was taken again and sentenced to transportation for 15 years. The governor said that he had warned the other officers of the probability of this man trying to escape.

The average number of prisoners in the year ending the 31st March was 122; which is 8 more than in the previous year. The increase in the commitments was chiefly in petty larcenies and poaching.

One man was lately liberated after his twenty-first imprisonment for poaching; and another, who is only 20 years old, has been 14 times in the prison, chiefly for poaching. The former boasts that he had eaten 18 Christmas dinners in the prison!

At the time of my visit there were 128 prisoners.

The large majority of the prisoners belong to the district.

I found the following to be the chief exceptions to the observance of the rules:—

1. Cells have been used to a considerable extent for separate confinement which have not been certified as fit for that purpose. The surgeon, however, said that he had not seen any ill effects to arise from the cells having been so employed.

2. As implied by what has already been stated, little employment is found for convicted prisoners not sentenced to hard labour, or for untried prisoners.

The prisoners still pass far too much time in bed.

The chief employment of the male prisoners is still tread-wheel labour, though better kinds of work have to some extent been introduced.

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* The certificate has since been granted.

It appears that formerly many of the prisoners were set to work on the land near the prison, and that although there was no more expensive fence round it than an ordinary hedge, there was no case of escape. On this subject the governor stated as follows:—

"Mr. Orridge, the late governor of this prison, who was my father-in-law, had a farm near the prison on which he was allowed to employ the prisoners. He had frequently a score at a time on the farm. There was no wall round it nothing but ordinary hedges; but I have heard him say, that during the whole time he was allowed to employ the prisoners on the farm, which continued several years, not a single prisoner so employed made his escape. I should myself have no fear of escape from employing prisoners in a similar way and without any wall round the land, if the selection of the prisoners were left with me. It is a great mistake to suppose that most of the prisoners are watching for opportunities to escape They know that to do so would be equivalent to subjecting themselves to perpetual banishment from their homes, for that if they ventured to show themselves again they should be apprehended and compelled to undergo a punishment far greater than that which they had tried to escape from. Generally speaking it is only wandering offenders under serious charges who make any attempt to escape; very seldom such as have regular homes, as is the case with most of our prisoners. I believe that of the 97 prisoners now in confinement scarcely one would try to escape."

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"I come to the prison every morning at half past nine, and on my arrival read the daily prayers. I then see in private any prisoners who have newly arrived or who are about to leave. I next visit the school and take a class myself for religious instruction, and conclude by visiting the sick, if there be any in the hospital, and by seeing any prisoner who may be in solitary confinement. This is my general routine of duty, but on Saturday in place of having a class I give the whole time, except that employed in reading prayers, to seeing the prisoners in private. On Sunday I perform three full services, two for the males, and one for the females. On an average I pass from two hours and a half to three hours daily in the prison. The prisoners who are committed for considerable periods generally make satisfactory progress both in religious and secular knowledge, and are exceedingly thankful for the instruction afforded to them; but with those who are sent for short periods, such as a fortnight, little can be effected. The general behaviour of the prisoners when at chapel or otherwise under my charge has been remarkably good."

The following is taken from the Chaplain's Report for the year ending Michaelmas, 1850:—

"On comparing the number of committals with that which I mentioned in my last Report, and which amounted to 709, I am happy to find that notwithstanding the continued depression in agriculture, and the consequent scarcity of labour, there is a *decrease* of committals amounting to 67. Among the causes which I am led to think has produced this diminution of numbers, this may be mentioned as the principal one, viz., the alteration which has taken place in the dietary this year, by which

the former inducement of having more to eat—which hitherto led the disorderly *inmates* of *Union houses* to commit offences in order to come to gaol—is removed, and a more severe employment in separate cells allotted them; since the numbers of committals from Union-houses up to my last Report amounted in the year to 120, while to the present time they have scarcely exceeded 60, thus producing a diminution of nearly *one half.* . . .

"The conduct of the prisoners, both at chapel and at school, continues to be very orderly and attentive. Still, as I have mentioned in my former Report, the present chapel is not suited for the purposes of worship, nor calculated to give them the idea that while in it they are engaged in the service of God. A larger and more commodious school-room, in a different locality than the present, would be an improvement; as I have observed many disadvantages to arise both from the size and situation of the present one."

The schoolmaster gives about five hours per day to his duties. He teaches the prisoners reading and writing, and occasionally gives a little instruction in arithmetic. The females are taught by the matron.

I examined some of the prisoners, both male and female, and found the general progress to be very satisfactory.

The prison was very clean, as were the persons of the prisoners.

Except that the matron stated that the females' clothing was scarcely warm enough in winter, the bedding and clothing appeared to be sufficient.

As already mentioned, the dietary lately recommended by the Secretary of State has been adopted. I found the food good in quality, and the surgeon and governor considered it sufficient, in all cases, in quantity; and no prisoner made any complaint about it. Nevertheless of 40 prisoners taken indiscriminately among those who had been committed for short periods, 26 had lost in weight, and only 7 had gained.

The cost of the food last year was about 4½*d.*, which is rather more than the general average.

The prisoners had a healthy appearance, and the deputy-surgeon (the surgeon himself being absent from illness) stated as follows:—

"The prisoners are at present in very good health, and the general state of health in the prison has been good since Mr. Hill's last inspection. The only important exception was a case in which several prisoners in one of the wards were attacked with violent cramps, obstinate constipation, and constant vomiting, owing entirely, in my opinion, to malaria arising from a quantity of offal kept by a butcher, near the prison, to feed pigs with. On my representation to the visiting justices the nuisance was removed, and the disorder gradually disappeared, though some of the prisoners remained for several weeks in a very exhausted state. There is only one prisoner at present who is sufficiently unwell to be unable to work, and this man was so when

he came in: indeed he is now much better than he was then. I see no objection to coarser bread being used in the prison. There is a greater tendency to constipation than to diarrhœa among the prisoners. Except piles there is no disease to which the prisoners are more liable than persons in the same class of life out of prison. Most of the prisoners who remain some months improve in health during their imprisonment. They generally increase in weight, but most of those who are sent for short periods lose in weight, owing partly to their having less food, and partly to the circumstance that prisoners who have newly arrived often fret for a time. There is occasional shamming of illness to escape the treadwheel."

The general conduct of the prisoners appears to have much improved, which the governor attributed to the better provision for superintendence. Except on one occasion, when the governor was absent on leave, there does not appear to have been any case of such gross misbehaviour as I had to mention in my last Report. The whole number of punishments during the year was only 46, and among the female prisoners (who are in a separate building quite removed from that for the male prisoners) there was not a single punishment.

County-court debtors are separated from other debtors, but at the time of my visit there were none of the former class.

No prisoner made any complaint.

There was a prisoner convicted of highway robbery, whom the governor believed to be innocent. The governor had communicated on the subject to the judge who presided at the trial, and at his request had supplied him with a statement of the grounds on which he supposed the prisoner to be innocent.

The governor stated that two cases had come to his knowledge this year of persons who had once been in this prison for felony, but who are now living in habits of industry and respectability.

The registers and accounts were in a proper state, and the system of accounts appears to afford a sufficient check on the disbursements.

The food and other stores are supplied by public contract.

The net average cost per prisoner last year was 21*l.*, which is 1*l.* below the general average in England, though 5*l.* above the general average in Scotland.

The entries in the Visiting Justices' Minute Book were regular, and showed satisfaction with the state of the prison.

The governor, chaplain, and matron, appear all to be zealous and efficient in the discharge of their duties; but the system in use must be much improved before the discipline can be regarded as satisfactory.

I made the following recommendations:—

1. The business of shoemaking in the prison to be extended, and basket making and net making to be introduced.

2. Five cells in ward No. 1 to be prepared for being certified as

fit for the separate confinement of prisoners; which can be done at very little expense.

3. Coarser and cheaper bread to be used.

4. The use of beer, which has now been nearly done away with, to be wholly discontinued by abolishing the allowance once a week to the prisoners employed as washerwomen, and substituting milk or some other nutritious article of food in its place.

5. Smoking to be prohibited among debtors, as among other prisoners; as is the case at the prisons at Derby, Chester, and elsewhere.

6. The females to be allowed flannel petticoats in winter; the matron considering this addition to their clothing necessary.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—BOROUGH LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected April 24th, 1850.]

There has not been any alteration since my last Report (dated May, 1850), the recommendations contained in that Report not having been carried into effect, though I was informed by the town clerk that the attention of the town council would be immediately directed to the subject.

The place was clean.

Last year there were 249 male prisoners and 35 females, forming a total which is the same within one as in the previous year.

At the time of my visit the place was empty.

IPSWICH.—BOROUGH PRISON.

[Inspected April 25th, 1850.]

In accordance with some of the recommendations and suggestions in my last Report (dated May, 1849), the following alterations have been made:—

1. The whitewashing is now done by the prisoners, and the clothing except the shoes is repaired by them, but most of the new clothing is still purchased, and the borough still pays for both the making and mending of the shoes. That part of the recommendation also which suggested the introduction of some simple work of a staple kind, for the constant employment of all the convicted prisoners, and of such of the unconvicted as were willing to work, has not been acted upon; consequently at my present visit I again found a third part of the prisoners in a state of idleness, while most of those who were employed were engaged in turning cranks, the power of which is wasted.

One of the prisoners who was unemployed was a shoemaker, who said that he should like very much to work. Nevertheless no work had been given him, although the borough is subjected

to the expense of purchasing shoes for the prisoners, and even of mending them.

2. The prisoners now go into the bath on admission, though not afterwards, as recommended, once a month.

3. An inner wall is now building to make the prison more secure.

The recommendations for having the cells supplied with gas, and with the means of communicating with an officer, with a view to their being certified as fit for the separate confinement of prisoners, for putting a stop to the slothful habits engendered by the long time which the prisoners pass in bed, for removing the dampness in one of the rooms, for furnishing the surgeon with a case book, and for the matron teaching the female prisoners to read and write, have not been acted upon.

The dietary lately recommended by the Secretary of State has been adopted.

Part of the building is out of repair, but I was informed that steps were about to be taken to put it into thorough repair.

The insecurity of the prison was spoken of in the last Report, and since that time there has been an escape. It was effected by the prisoner taking out part of the brick-work in his cell by means of a poker which he had secreted when in the school room, and letting himself down by his sheets and blankets.

It appears by the subjoined entry in the visiting justices' minute book, that much blame attached to the governor and schoolmaster in this business, and that in other respects the governor had been negligent:—

"16*th July*, 1849.—The visiting justices report to the Gaol Session, that having instituted and completed their inquiries into the circumstances connected with the escape of the convict F. G., they have come to the conclusion that the convict was enabled to break through the wall of his cell by means of a poker, which he contrived to abstract from the schoolroom on the previous day, and secrete about his person; and they are of opinion that a great want of vigilance and proper precaution attaches to the governor, and Pettit, the schoolmaster, who is also one of the turnkeys, for having allowed an instrument so manifestly adapted to facilitate and accomplish an escape to remain within the observation and reach of the prisoners during their daily visits to the schoolroom.

"The visiting justices also report great neglect on the part of the governor, in having failed to remove two hooks, placed in another part of the outer wall of the prison, for several days after his attention had been directed to them by the visiting justices, and also in not guarding against and preventing the introduction into the prison of several improper and prohibited articles.

"The visiting justices also express feelings of deep disappointment at not having found more alacrity and energy on the part of the governor (who has so recently been appointed to his office) in pursuing and endeavouring to retake the prisoner after the discovery of his escape."

Subsequently to this there are two entries in the visiting justices' minute-book, reflecting discredit on the governor. The first of these entries, dated 27th of October, 1849, ends as follows :—

"The visiting justices are obliged to remark that there appears a laxity and inattention on the part of the governor in the management and discipline of the prison."

In about two months after the prisoner's escape he was retaken for a new offence which he had committed, and is now at Millbank under sentence of transportation for 15 years.

The average number of prisoners in the year ending 31st ultimo was 15, which is 2 less than the number in the previous year.

The following appeared to be the chief exceptions to the observance of the rules :—

1. There are no printed copies of the rules for the guidance of the prisoners, and the rules are very seldom read to the prisoners; only once, the governor admitted, since he had been in office.

2. As may be inferred from what has already been stated, the governor does not provide employment for convicted prisoners not sentenced to hard labour, or for such prisoners before trial as are willing to be employed as far as can be done.

3. In winter the prisoners do not wash their feet so often as the rule directs.

4. The cells which are used to a considerable extent for the separate confinement of prisoners, have not been certified as fit for such use, but the surgeon said that no ill effects had arisen from their occupation.

5. There is no book showing how much food is received and consumed.

6. As implied by what has already been stated, there is no provision for teaching the female prisoners to read and write.

7. The surgeon's half weekly visits to the prison and the chaplain's private visits to the prisoners do not appear to have been regular; the surgeon also has not been in the habit of recording the state of the health of the prisoners on their admission or discharge, or of making an annual report; nor has the chaplain been in the habit of giving the prisoners religious instruction in classes or of making an annual report.

The chaplain stated as follows :—

"On Sunday I perform the full morning service and evening service, and preach a sermon. On the week days, with the exception of Saturday, and generally on Friday also, I read the appointed service. Generally speaking I see every prisoner once a month in private. The general conduct of the prisoners when at chapel or otherwise under my charge is extremely good."

The schoolmaster gives four hours per day to instruction. He teaches the prisoners reading, writing, and arithmetic.

I examined some of the prisoners, but their general progress was unsatisfactory. As no specimens had been kept of the writing of the prisoners on their admission, it was in most cases impossible to judge of their progress in this respect.

Making allowance for the dust caused by the bricklayers employed on the ground, the prison was clean, and the prisoners were clean in their persons.

Except in some minor articles of clothing, the clothing and bedding were sufficient.

The food was of good quality. Its daily cost last year was $4\frac{3}{4}d.$ per head.

I found the prisoners in good health. The surgeon stated as follows:—

"The prisoners are at present in very good health, and their general health has been very good since Mr. Hill's last inspection. There is no one who is sufficiently unwell to be unable to work. There has not been any epidemic in the prison since Mr. Hill's last inspection. There is no disease to which the prisoners are more liable than persons in the same class of life out of prison. Generally speaking I think the prisoners improve in health, even those who remain a considerable time."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good. The chief offence was stated to be improper language; and the ordinary punishment, stoppage of food.

County-court debtors are separated from other debtors.

No prisoner made any complaint.

The registers were in a proper state, but the system of accounts does not afford a sufficient check on the disbursements. There is no account showing the receipt and consumption of food.

Bread and meat only are supplied by public contract.

The net average cost per prisoner last year was more than 36*l.*, which is 14*l.* above the general average in England, and 20*l.* above the general average in Scotland.

The general result of the inspection was very unsatisfactory.

I recommended that a contract be entered into with the county for the care and maintenance of the prisoners, with a view to the discontinuance of a separate prison for the borough; but that, if this recommendation were not adopted, a new governor should be appointed; that the recommendations mentioned in the last Report should be carried into effect; and that a proper stock-account of food and other stores should be kept.

With reference to the first of the foregoing recommendations, I have received the subjoined letter from the Clerk to the Visiting Justices:—

"*Town Hall, Ipswich, 2nd July*, 1850.

"Sir,—I am desired by the Mayor and Magistrates of this Borough, to state that they have on several occasions taken into consideration the recommendation contained in your letter addressed to the Mayor, that

application should be made to the County Justices to enter into a contract with the Town Council of this Borough, for the care and maintenance of the Borough prisoners, with a view to the discontinuance of the separate Borough Prison—and they have had, through one of their body, conferences with the County Justices upon this important question.

"Upon such conferences, careful calculations were made as to the extent of accommodation which would be obtained in the County Prison, by the proposed transfer to the Borough Gaol of the County female prisoners, and the additional room which the County would acquire by the consequent removal of the Borough male prisoners to the County Prison; and it was beyond all doubt ascertained that the additional room thus to be obtained, would be totally insufficient for the objects of the suggested union.

"Under these circumstances, therefore, any further discussion became useless, and the proposition was mutually abandoned, on the ground I have stated, as to its impractibility.

"But the Magistrates for the Borough, independent of the above considerations, would have hesitated to entertain the proposed change, on the ground of its inutility: for, in the first place, the large extension of population, now above thirty thousand, would alone justify the maintenance of a separate prison, over which they ought to retain an exclusive supervision; and they feel quite convinced that the classification, discipline, and management of their prison, under its present control, is carried out in an improved manner.

"These beneficial objects have been attained by the large sums of money recently expended in the improvement of the Gaol throughout, now making it entirely adapted for the criminal purposes of the Borough. And they could not, moreover, discover, after a careful estimate, any saving in expense which would justify a union of the two prisons, under such a sacrifice of important advantages.

"I have, &c.,

"E. Lawrence,

"Clerk to the Gaol Session and Visiting Magistrates."

I cannot at all agree in the views taken in the above letter. It seems to me evident that the available accommodation in the two prisons, whatever it may be, must be increased, instead of being diminished, by a junction, inasmuch as the means of classification would be greater. Take, for example, the parts appropriated to female prisoners. When two separate wards are applied to that purpose, in two distinct buildings, though there may be only a single female prisoner in each ward, none of the rooms and cells for females can be used for male prisoners, however much they may be required for that purpose. But if the inmates of the two prisons were under one management, then if the prisoners of either sex be few in number, as compared with their accommodation, one of their wards, if there be two, or two wards if there be three, &c., can be readily given over, for a time, to the use of prisoners of the other sex.

So much as respects available accommodation; and as regards

expense, the saving to be effected by having one governor, one chaplain, one surgeon, and one matron, instead of two officers of each kind, appears to me to be obvious and considerable.

Lastly, with regard to the beneficial objects alleged to be attained under the present system, the foregoing Report shows that I cannot concur as to the fact of their attainment.

IPSWICH.—BOROUGH LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected April 26th, 1850.]

In accordance with the recommendations contained in my last Report (dated May, 1849), the allowance of food is now a pound and a half of bread per day (given in three equal meals) with water, and no prisoner is allowed to have any food till he has washed himself thoroughly.

There has not been any other change.

The place was clean.

The number of prisoners last year was 384, namely, 314 males and 70 females; but at the time of my visit there was no prisoner.

YORKSHIRE.

YORK.—COUNTY PRISON.

[The Inspection began April 30th, 1850.]

In compliance with some of the recommendations in my last Report, (dated September, 1848,) the stock of clothing has been made complete in most of the articles in which it was deficient; another bath has been procured; the whitewashing of part of the prison (though not of the whole, as recommended) is now done by the prisoners; a prisoner now assists in the cooking, instead of there being two paid cooks; a disinfecting apparatus has been procured; and the rule respecting bathing and washing the feet has been properly attended to. But the main recommendations, made with a view to putting an end to indiscriminate and uncontrolled association and to sloth and idleness, have not been acted upon. Nor have any of the recommendations for establishing a better classification of the debtors, or for the adoption of precautionary rules to prevent excessive drinking among them, and to prevent abuses of other kinds, been acted upon.

Most of the causes therefore of the corrupting state of the prison described in my last Report are still in operation; though, as the number of prisoners is much less than it was at that time, the corruption must at present be less virulent. Nevertheless at any time the number of prisoners may rise again to what it was;

indeed, owing to the assizes and quarter sessions having lately taken place, the present number of criminal prisoners (77) is much below the average of late.

A new matron has been appointed, who appears to be properly qualified for her duties.

The building appeared to be in good repair.

I was glad to find that the rules had been much better observed since my last visit than I found to be the case at that time, although there are still serious deficiencies. The following are the chief exceptions at present to the observance of the rules :—

1. As implied by what has already been stated, few of the prisoners are set to work; indeed the work is nearly confined to the female prisoners, whose department in this respect is in a far more satisfactory state than the males'.

2. There are no cells adapted for solitary confinement.

3. Some of the debtors' rooms were in a disorderly state, though others were very neat.

4. The chaplain is not in the habit of seeing prisoners in private who have been sentenced to transportation, or who are Roman Catholics; and his interviews with other prisoners in private did not appear to have been (as required by the rule) at stated times. The character book also which he is required to keep was incomplete in some of the columns, and the dates being in many cases omitted there was nothing to show whether it had been brought up to the present time.

The chaplain of the prison stated as follows :—

"I perform daily service in the prison, and two services on the Sunday. I also administer the sacrament four times a year, and at other times when I think it necessary. I assemble the prisoners daily in classes for religious instruction, and daily superintend the school for male prisoners. I see all prisoners for trial, and all convicted prisoners, except transports, separately at stated times ; sometimes once a week, and sometimes once a fortnight, as I think necessary. The time of my daily attendance varies with the number of prisoners, but I am not able to state what the average number of hours is. I come at ten and remain till twelve, and I return at two and stay till my duties are discharged."

The annexed return shows the ordinary occupations when at large of the prisoners in confinement at the time of my visit, and how such of them as were at work were employed :—

Ordinary Occupations of the Prisoners when at large, with their Employment in Prison on the Day of Inspection.

ORIGINAL TRADES.	Untried Prisoners.	Convicted Prisoners Sentenced to Confinement for more than One Month.	Debtors.	Total.	Cooking, &c.	Shirt Making, &c.	Tailors' Work, &c.	Washing, Ironing, &c.	Not at Work.		
									Unable to work from illness.	Not at work because no work is provided.	Debtors idle from choice.
MALES.											
Blacksmiths, and other Workers in Iron	1	2	8	11	..	..	..	..	..	3	8
Butchers	..	..	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Carpenters, Joiners, Cabinetmakers, Coopers, &c.	..	2	2	4	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Clerks, &c.	2	2	3	7	..	..	1	..	1	2	3
Hawkers and Pedlars	3	3	..	6	..	..	..	..	1	5	..
Labourers (Agricultural)	7	8	12	27	1	..	..	..	..	14	12
Ditto (other)	6	7	6	19	..	..	..	..	..	13	6
Masons, Bricklayers, &c.	2	..	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Miners	3	2	4	9	..	..	..	..	..	5	4
Painters	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sailors, Boatmen, &c.	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Shoemakers, &c.	..	6	2	8	1	..	..	..	..	5	2
Tailors	..	1	2	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
Weavers	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Miscellaneous	1	4	18	23	1	..	..	..	1	3	18
Not brought up to any regular occupation	..	1	4	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
Total of Males	25	39	71	135	3	..	2	..	5	54	71
FEMALES.											
Married Women	1	1	..	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
Servants (unmarried)	1	4	..	5	..	2	..	2	1	..	..
Miscellaneous (unmarried)	..	3	..	3	..	1	..	2	..	..	..
Unmarried, not brought up to any regular occupation	3	..	1	4	..	3	..	..	..	..	1
Total of Females	5	8	1	14	..	7	..	5	1	..	1

The schoolmaster stated as follows:—

"I give from four to five hours on five days of the week to the business of instruction. I teach reading, writing, and the first rules of arithmetic. None but the boys are compelled to come to school; but all the others who wish to do so are allowed to come. They are permitted to choose each day whether they will go to school that day or not. None, however, who do not go to school (except prisoners of superior education) are allowed to have library books, and this causes most of those who are in want of education to come to the school."

The schoolmistress gives rather more than three hours each day to instruction (a very ample allowance, considering the small number of female prisoners), and teaches reading, writing, and spelling.

I examined some of the prisoners, both male and female, and found that on the whole they appeared to have made considerable progress; though the examination was not so satisfactory as it might have been, owing to the want of a sufficient record of the state of the education of the prisoners when they began to receive instruction.

Some of the writing books and other books were not in a proper state, and there was cutting on some of the wood-work.

Except a portion of the debtors' department, I found the whole prison clean, and the prisoners were clean in their persons. The females' department was very neat and orderly.

Even County Court debtors and fraudulent debtors are still allowed to smoke.

The bedding was sufficient, as, with the exception of a few minor articles, was the clothing also; though some of the clothing was out of repair.

The dietary, which is the same for all prisoners, without regard to a difference in age or sex, or to the question whether a prisoner works or not, must, if it be sufficient for all (and I received no complaints about it), be too much for some. It is at present greater than the ordinary allowance by a pint of milk daily, which has been given as a precaution against cholera.

I found the food to be of good quality. Its cost last year was about fivepence per day per head for the criminal prisoners, and ninepence for the debtors. The cost of the food of the criminal prisoners, however, was increased a penny a day by the allowance of milk as just mentioned. Deducting this penny, the expense of the food of the criminals would be about the average in other prisons, but the cost of the debtors' food is very high, especially considering that almost all of them pass their time in idleness, and therefore require comparatively little food.

The governor stated as follows:—

"One of the debtors now in this prison has been here about fifteen years. For several years he has been maintained at the cost of the county [an expense of about 13*l.* 10*s.* per annum], and that in complete idleness. I believe nevertheless that this man has property, and that

he might get out at any time if he would consent to surrender his property to his creditors."

The prisoners generally had a healthy appearance. The deputy surgeon stated as follows:—

"The prisoners are at present in good health. There are about half-a-dozen prisoners who, if there were work in the prison, would not be able to do it, or at least to do more than light work; but only one of these cases is serious, that of a man with an abscess. The prisoner complained of pain on admission, and the apparent cause of the abscess is a fall that he had long before that time. With the exception of the time when diarrhœa and cholera were prevalent in the country, the general state of health in the prison since Mr. Hill's last inspection has been good; and although there were many cases of diarrhœa and some severe ones of cholera, none of them proved fatal, which I attribute to the good ventilation and great cleanliness of the prison, the extra diet allowed, and the prompt treatment in every case, remedies being always on the spot, ready to be administered at a moment's notice. I am of opinion that the mode of ventilation, by open windows, in this prison and the city prison, is much superior to the artificial system by which air is brought in and extracted without immediate communication with the outer air; at least that it is so for the class of persons chiefly committed to these prisons. There is not any disease to which the prisoners are more liable than persons in the same class of life out of prison. I do not know anything in the prison tending to cause illness. The prisoners appear to me generally to improve in health during their imprisonment; even those who remain a considerable time."

As mentioned in my last Report, the nominal and appointed surgeon is not the acting surgeon, which is an objectionable arrangement. It appears that for the long period of thirteen years the deputy-surgeon has discharged nearly all the duties.

The conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been generally good; but as the prisoners pass much of their time without superintendence (in their day-rooms), many offences probably escape notice. The following recent extracts from the punishment book show that offences such as I described in my last Report continue to be committed:—

"13*th November*, 1849.—R. G. and S. S., for using obscene language to B. H., 24 hours solitary.

"10*th December*, 1849.—G. B., for kicking and striking T. P., 24 hours solitary.

"21*th December*, 1849.—J. S., for swearing at the officers, no breakfast.

"30*th January*, 1850.—T. A., J. L., J. P., and S. S., for cutting up copy books to make cards of, no dinner for two days each.

"22*nd February*, 1850.—W. B. and G. O., for wrestling, tearing their clothes, and general bad conduct, 24 hours solitary each.

"13*th March*, 1850.—W. G., for destroying a pair of stockings to make a ball, and general bad conduct, three days' solitary on bread and water.

"15*th March*, 1850.—A. S., for swearing and using other bad language to his fellow-prisoners, 24 hours solitary.

"23*rd March*, 1850.—W. K. and M. G., for fighting, K. being aggressor, K. 48 hours, and G. 24 hours solitary.

"8*th April*, 1850.—C. H., for throwing a note into the female pew in the chapel, no dinner.

"23*rd April*, 1850.—J. C., stealing postage stamps from J. L., his fellow-prisoner, two days solitary."

Much of the misconduct is no doubt attributable to the want of employment. A corroborating fact is, that among the females, who are set to work, there are not nearly so many punishments, proportionately, as among the males.

There are four lunatics, who it is very desirable should be removed to a proper asylum. One of them has been here about thirteen years. I had to remark on his and other cases in my last Report.

The only prisoner who made any complaint was a debtor, who was evidently of unsound mind. One of his complaints was that he had been allowed food at the cost of the county (instead of his trustees being compelled to provide for him); and that as a county rate-payer, he had thus been unduly taxed!

The registers were in a proper state, but there is no stock account of the food, like that kept in many prisons; though its place is partly supplied by other means.

Most of the food is furnished by public contract, but not the coals or other stores.

The average cost per prisoner last year, exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs, was nearly 24*l.*, which is about 2*l.* above the general average in England. This is in addition to the payments for food, &c., by such of the debtors as maintain themselves.

Although there has been a considerable improvement in this prison, it will be seen by what has been said, that its state is still very unsatisfactory. Both to criminals and debtors the prison must in many cases be attractive, rather than deterring, and few indeed can be confined in it without being more or less injured.

I addressed the following letter to the Secretary of State:—

SIR, *Hampstead, June 25th*, 1850.

IN my Fourteenth Annual Report of the prisons in my district (pages 24 to 31), I gave a description of the state of the county prison at York, and of its corrupting effects on the inmates. The evils are attributable in part to the bad construction of the building; and I suggested various measures, with a view to diminish as far as practicable the bad results of the original errors in construction, and to introduce other improvements.

A few of the minor suggestions have been carried into effect, but the main recommendations have not been adopted; and the consequence is, that idleness and corrupt association are still the rule of the prison.

In my last Report (page ix) I drew attention to the inutility (except as regards debtors) of prisons such as the county prison at York, which

are used almost entirely for untried prisoners; and I suggested that such prisons should either be used for convicted as well as for unconvicted prisoners, or be discontinued unless for debtors.

Had the recommendations respecting York Castle, which are contained in my Fourteenth Report, been carried into operation, the prison might, in my opinion, have served as well as most of our other prisons, except those of very recent erection, for the confinement of both convicted and unconvicted prisoners; and that at so moderate an outlay, that it would have been wise to incur the expense, even for the time which has elapsed since the recommendations were made.

Under existing circumstances, however, I do not wish to press these recommendations; partly because I see no better prospect than heretofore of their being adopted, and partly because I think a better course is now open.

As shown in my last Report, the sudden and large increase in the number of prisoners in my district consequent on the commercial distress which has till lately prevailed, and on the influx of Irish, owing to the late famine in Ireland, has at length been stopped, and the number is now receding and falling down to its former average. The improvement announced in my last Report appears steadily to proceed; and at my recent inspections I have generally had the pleasure of finding that the number of prisoners was materially less than at the corresponding period of last year.

Among other prisons where this is strikingly the case, is the large prison at Wakefield; where, although there is accommodation for more than 1,000 prisoners, which, at a small expense in completion and fittings, can be increased so as to provide for upwards of 1,200, the average number during the last quarter (exclusive of Government transports, whose number is limited to 400) was 545, whereas in the corresponding quarter of last year it was 628.

At the time of my visit the number was much less even than the average for the last quarter.

Since the large addition was made to Wakefield prison which has so increased the amount of accommodation, a borough prison has been built at Leeds, capable of holding nearly 300 prisoners, and has withdrawn a large supply of prisoners from Wakefield; the prisoners at Leeds having till lately been sent to Wakefield.

As a general rule, nearly all convicted prisoners in the West Riding, except the borough prisoners at Leeds, and all untried prisoners, except those who are committed for trial at the assizes (the latter not being more, I believe, than about 60 on an average), are sent to Wakefield; but it is quite practicable for the West Riding of the county to receive not only all its own prisoners, including those now sent to York, but to receive prisoners from the other two Ridings whenever the prisons at Beverley or Northallerton are too full.

Under these circumstances I recommend that the practice of committing criminal prisoners to York Castle be wholly discontinued; that offenders to be tried at York be sent in the first instance to their respective Riding or Borough prisons; that they be conveyed to York at the time of trial (in the same way as prisoners are conveyed to Pontefract and elsewhere to be tried at the quarter sessions), and that such as are convicted be taken back again to their respective Riding or Borough

prisons; and that legal authority be given to the ridings to contract with each other for the care and maintenance of prisoners—an authority which might with great advantage be made general to all counties, divisions of counties, and boroughs.

With respect to this latter suggestion I would remark that although I think it very desirable in itself that the North and East Ridings should obtain the occasional relief which such an arrangement would afford, its necessity would be but slightly augmented by the circumstance of the prisons of these ridings having to receive the untried prisoners now sent from the North and East Ridings to York; since these prisoners form but an inconsiderable portion of the whole number.

The great benefit to be obtained by the proposed change is the prevention of the moral injury which, except in very peculiar cases, must now befall every prisoner committed for trial at the assizes in Yorkshire; but it would also be a measure of economy and productive of other advantages.

I quite agree with those who are of opinion that whatever may be thought of the expediency of the separate system as applied indiscriminately and for long periods to convicted prisoners, there are few cases in which it is not desirable for untried prisoners; but there are at present no means of applying the separate system at York Castle; and nothing short of a complete reconstruction of the building could afford the means except for a very small number of prisoners. Therefore although by the adoption of the recommendations in my Fourteenth Report, the evils of association in this prison might be much reduced, it would not be possible without incurring a very great expense to provide for that individual isolation which in the case of untried prisoners is so desirable.

Under existing circumstances, therefore, either the great injustice must be committed of sending a prisoner who may be innocent of the charge against him to a place where he is exposed to the corrupting influences of idleness and bad company, or the practical absurdity must occur of beginning an imprisonment which will probably end in a term of confinement intended among other objects to improve the moral, religious, and industral condition of the prisoner, by placing him under circumstances in which the task must be rendered more difficult, if not impossible.

The only other means which presents itself for escaping from this anomalous position besides the one suggested is to build a new prison at York; but this appears to be quite inexpedient, because in the first place it would be attended with a great expense, and secondly because York is at a considerable distance from the districts containing the chief part of the population of the county.

By abandoning the use, as a prison for criminals, of that part of York Castle which is now appropriated to that purpose, not only would the moral benefits which I have adverted to be obtained, but there would be a considerable saving of expense to the county; for not only might a greater number of subordinate officers be dispensed with than it would be necessary to add to the other prisons in the county (owing to the larger proportionate number of officers required for a small prison), and the duties of the superior officers so much reduced that a considerable decrease might equitably be made in their salaries, but the cost of conveying prisoners to York would be much less; inasmuch as the pri-

soners would then go in considerable bodies, under the charge of their ordinary officers, instead of being taken a few at a time—often singly—and that by constables paid expressly for the duty.

Lastly, the withdrawal of the criminal prisoners from York Castle would much facilitate what is greatly needed, a classification of the debtors, so that the fraudulent may no longer associate, as at present, with those who are honest, though they may have been thoughtless or imprudent.

I have, &c., &c.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart.,
&c. &c.

YORK.—CITY PRISON.

[Inspected May 4th, 1850.]

At my last inspection, in October, 1848, I made a series of recommendations, the adoption of which would not have entailed any permanent expense, and which indeed would, taken all together, have been productive of a saving, while they would have had the more important effect of putting an end to the bad state of discipline described at length in my last Report, and which must necessarily prove corrupting, instead of amending, to most of those who are subjected to it.

This melancholy and discreditable state of things appears to be chiefly owing to the state of the law, which places the nominal responsibility respecting the prison in one body, and the command of the necessary funds for effecting improvements in another. It is true that if the magistrates were to apply to the Court of Queen's Bench, a mandamus would probably be issued to compel the town council to pay the cost of making all necessary and reasonable alterations, but it cannot be expected that gentlemen should take upon themselves a task of this kind, and which would involve them in much that is disagreeable, and possibly in considerable expense.

At my last visit to York, I did all in my power, by meeting some of the town council as well as the magistrates, to effect an alteration in the prison. I pointed out the moral benefits that would ensue from the change, and the little cost at which it could be accomplished; but I did not succeed; and I have now little hope of any material improvement being made in this prison, unless measures be taken either to compel the town council to do what is requisite, or permanently to withdraw all power from them in the matter, or to impose on them the responsibility for the good government of the prison, as well as the power of controlling the expenditure.

At present, owing to the lax system of discipline, the want of early rising, of more work, of separation and of effective superintendence, and owing to the practice (mentioned in my last Report) of giving prisoners clothing when they go out, instead of requiring them to

earn their clothing by their work, the prison evidently serves to a considerable extent as a place of attraction to the idle classes, instead of a place of repulsion. Much evidence to this effect appeared in my last Report; and on the present occasion the governor stated as follows:—

"By the acknowledgments of the prisoners themselves, I know that the practice still continues of committing offences on purpose to get committed to this prison. Four prisoners were liberated this morning who had broken a street lamp with the evident intention of being sent to this prison. They were sentenced to seven days' imprisonment, and on their liberation each prisoner was supplied with a coat, waistcoat, pair of trousers, and pair of shoes, and one of them had a shirt also! Many times last winter gas-lamps and the windows of the police-office and vagrant-office were broken, in order to get admission to the prison. Out of 18 male prisoners who were brought to trial at the last Quarter Sessions, 12 in my opinion committed their offences for the direct purpose of being sent to prison. Most of the vagrants committed to the prison still pass their time in idleness; no prisoners except those sentenced to hard labour being set to work."

The following is an extract from the Visiting Justices' minute book:—

"*Dec.* 12*th*, 1849.—The number of prisoners who commit offences with the object of being maintained during the winter increases yearly, and is deserving of serious consideration, as a serious expense is entailed thereby on the city. The imprisonment inflicted is not looked on as a punishment, but a reward."

The same old body of rules continues in force, and I did not find any important exceptions to their observance; but the rule in the Gaol Act respecting the clothing is not carried out, as the clothing of some of the prisoners was ragged and insufficient. Moreover there are no cells adapted for solitary confinement, and the provision for instruction in reading and writing is insufficient.

The chaplain, whose routine of duty remains unchanged, stated as follows:—

"On Sunday I perform the morning and evening service, and preach a sermon; and on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday I read a selection from the Liturgy, and a portion of the Scriptures. On Tuesday also I teach the females to read, and give them some religious instruction; and on Thursday I give the male prisoners similar instruction, and teach some of them to write also. When any of the prisoners are seriously ill, I visit them in the hospital. My duties at the prison altogether occupy me about five hours each week. The conduct of the prisoners when at chapel or otherwise under my charge has, with scarcely any exceptions, been very good."

The prison was clean, but some parts of it were disorderly: some of the prisoners moreover were dirty in their persons, owing in part apparently to an insufficient supply of soap. There were broken panes of glass also, and there was scribbling in some of the books.

The following return shows how many of the prisoners were at work and how many were idle at the time of my visit, together with their ordinary occupations when at large. It should be remarked that the large number of prisoners uselessly occupied was caused by the want of a fresh supply of stones for breaking.

Ordinary Occupations of the Prisoners when at large, with their employment in Prison on the Day of Inspection.

ORIGINAL TRADE.	Convicted Prisoners.								Not at Work.	
	Sentenced to Confinement for One Month or under, or until sureties are given.	Sentenced to Confinement for more than One Month.	Total.	Cleaning, &c., as a regular employment, and occupying the prisoner the greater part of the day.	Knitting.	Painting, Whitewashing, &c.	Washing, Ironing, &c.	Removing stones backwards and forwards for the sake of employment.	Miscellaneous.	Unable to work from illness.	Not at work because no work is provided.
MALES.											
Bakers	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Labourers	..	17	17	2	..	..	..	15	..	..	..
Masons, Bricklayers, &c.	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Sailors, Boatmen, &c.	..	2	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Tailors	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Weavers	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	6
Total of Males	1	22	32	3	..	4	..	18	..	1	6
FEMALES.											
Married Women	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Servants (unmarried)	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Miscellaneous (unmarried)	..	6	6	..	..	..	3	..	3	..	..
Total of Females	..	8	8	..	1	..	3	..	4	..	..

On my arrival at the prison, early in the morning, I found a male prisoner in the governor's back kitchen, cleaning the shoes of the family (which is contrary to law), a servant maid being in the same room with him.

In one ward convicted and unconvicted prisoners were together; one of the convicted prisoners being a transport, and the unconvicted prisoners being in for the first time. These prisoners were without occupation, and not under observation.

The bedding was sufficient, but as already stated the clothing was not so.

The allowance of food appears to be sufficient, and except the bread, which was insufficiently baked, I found it of good quality.

The distribution of food has been improved by having the bread given in three portions daily, instead of two; so that now the prisoners have three meals every day. The following is the dietary as it now stands.

DIET TABLE.

	BREAKFAST.	DINNER.	
Sunday .	1 lb. of bread, and half-pint of new milk.	½ lb. of bread.	½ lb. of bread, and ½ pint of new milk.
Monday .	The same.	The same.	The same.
Tuesday .	The same.	1 quart of soup, & ½ lb. of bread.	The same.
Wednesday	The same.	About ½ lb. of beast cheek, and 1 lb. of potatoes, and ½ lb. of bread.	The same.
Thursday .	The same.	The same as Sunday.	The same.
Friday .	The same.	The same as Tuesday.	The same.
Saturday .	The same.	The same as Wednesday.	The same.

The deputy surgeon (the same gentleman that acts at the county prison, and for the same principal) stated as follows:—

"The prisoners are at present in good health. There is only one prisoner sufficiently unwell to be unable to work; his case, however, is serious, though he is rather better than he was when he came to the prison. The general health of the prisoners since Mr. Hill's last inspection has been good, though itch (in all cases imported) has been very prevalent. There is no disease to which the prisoners are more liable than persons in the same class of life out of prison. Most of those who are committed for short periods improve in health, and the others do not generally fall off."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been tolerably good; but for want of better superintendence, many offences probably escape observation. The kinds of offences committed, as shown by the following extracts from the governor's journal, mark a very bad state of discipline:—

"*November* 26, 1849.—D. D. and G. D. confined in solitary cells seven hours for fighting in the stone yard.

"*January* 5, 1850.—W. J. and C. Y. placed in solitary confinement six hours for fighting in the stone yard.

"*March* 1, 1850.—W. P. and W. R. placed in separate solitary cells thirty-six hours, and allowed nothing but one pound of bread and water per day, for tearing their blankets.

"*March* 15.—W. T. confined thirty hours for stealing part of a beast cheek out of the washhouse.

"*March* 27.—W. W. confined in a solitary cell three days, for stealing firewood out of the stoneyard."

Debtors are not received into this prison.

Some of the prisoners complained of the quality of the bread, and one, of the want of more clothing; another prisoner stated that if he were taken ill in the night he should have no means of making himself heard. These complaints were all just. On the latter subject, the governor stated as follows:—

"If a prisoner were taken ill in the night I should not be able to hear him, nor would any other officer, unless he succeeded in awakening several other prisoners and they all shouted together. About seven years ago a boy in the prison was one morning found dead in his bed, and the jury at the inquest found great fault with the want of the means of communication in the prison; but nothing has been done to remedy the evil."

One of the registers was rather in arrears, and there is no stock account of the food to serve as a check on the disbursements for food.

Bread and milk only are supplied by public contract.

YORK.—POLICE CELLS (FORMING PART OF THE POLICE STATION).

[Inspected May 4th, 1850.]

In accordance with some of the recommendations in my last Report (dated October, 1848), the ventilation of the cells has been improved, a place has been made for the prisoners to wash themselves in, and such prisoners as are dirty are now required to wash themselves before having any food; but the other recommendations have not been acted upon.

The place was clean and tolerably neat.

There was one prisoner.

The number of prisoners last year was 1049 (about a quarter being females), which is about the same number as in the previous year.

SCARBOROUGH.—BOROUGH PRISON.

[Inspected May 2, 1850.]

Since my last Report (dated October, 1848) the following alterations have been made, in accordance with some of the recommendations contained in that Report:—

1. An opening has been made between the two upper corridors; and the cells in these corridors, together with the cells in the lower corridor communicating with them, have been appropriated to male prisoners; the female prisoners being placed in that part of the prison formerly occupied by untried male prisoners.

The surgeon stated that by this alteration, the ventilation of the prison had been greatly improved. It had also facilitated the more complete separation of the sexes and the general superintendence of the prison.

2. An airing yard for male prisoners has been formed on the plan I suggested, but no such airing yard has been made for female prisoners, consequently the female prisoners can still communicate with the male prisoners, and with people on the outside; and such communication goes on.

3. Stone breaking has been introduced, and the prisoners now assist in making and mending their clothes, &c.; but the supply of work is still far from sufficient; the other kinds of work suggested not having been introduced.

4. The plan of tasks has been acted upon to some extent, but not fully.

5. A Chaplain has been engaged, but as the appointment is very recent he has not yet entered on his duties.

6. The prison dress has been made complete, but the stock of clothing is still insufficient.

7. The prisoners are now properly supplied with clean linen, &c

8. Every prisoner on admission now goes into the bath, but not afterwards, as recommended, once a month.

The following recommendations have not been acted upon:—

1. The entrance to the lower corridor to be made more secure.

2. The cells to be supplied with artificial light and to be otherwise prepared for being certified as fit for the separate confinement of prisoners.

3. A new kitchen to be made for the keeper's family, and the present kitchen to be used exclusively for cooking the food of the prisoners.

4. The hospital to be properly fitted up and made secure.

5. The keeper to go to Wakefield to see the different kinds of work carried on in the prison there, with a view to the introduction of mat-making, net-making, and other simple kinds of work into the prison at Scarborough.

6. The prisoners to rise throughout the year not later than at six, and not to go to bed before nine at night.

By the changes that have been made, a marked improvement has been effected, though much remains to be done before the prison is in a satisfactory state.

The following are now the chief exceptions to the observance of the rules:—

1. As already stated, the supply of work is still far from sufficient.

2. The chaplain not having yet entered on his duties, the rules relating to the performance of divine worship, &c., are still in abeyance.

3. The cells used for separate confinement have not been certified as fit for such use.

4. There is no regular provision for teaching the prisoners to read and write. The instruction hitherto given has been only occasional, and in the cases of particular prisoners.

The average number of prisoners last year was eight, which is three more than the average in each of the two previous years. At the time of my inspection, however, there was only one prisoner.

The prison was clean, but for want of shelves in the cells it was not very neat. The prisoner, too, was not sufficiently clean in his person.

There was scribbling in some of the books.

The bedding was sufficient, but as already mentioned the stock of clothing is not sufficient.

The dietary lately recommended by the Secretary of State has been adopted. The food was of good quality. Its daily cost last year was about 5*d.* per day per head, which is about a penny above the general average in other prisons.

The Surgeon stated as follows:—

"The only prisoner now in confinement is in good health; and the general health of the prisoners since Mr. Hill's last inspection has been good, especially since work was introduced into the prison. There has not been any epidemic in the prison. I have not observed any ill effects from the use of the separate cells, except in one instance, which occurred about six years ago. In that case a man became insane the day after he left the prison, and I attributed his insanity to his solitary confinement."

The general conduct of the prisoners was stated to have been good. The chief offence is talking and singing in the cells.

The prisoner made no complaint.

The registers and accounts were in a proper state, but there is no proper stock book of other stores than food.

Owing, it was stated, to the smallness of the consumption, the food and other stores are not supplied by public contract.

The net cost per prisoner last year was about 30*l.*, which is 8*l.* above the general average in England. This may in part be attributed to the small number of prisoners; some of the expenses, particularly that of salaries, not diminishing proportionately to the number of prisoners.

I made the following recommendations:—

1. As already recommended, gas to be introduced into the cells; and early rising in winter as well as summer to be enforced.

2. The stock of clothing, which is insufficient when there are many prisoners, to be increased.

3. The entrance to the lower corridor to be made more secure, by grating off one end of the corridor, as suggested by one of the magistrates.

4. The new airing yard, which has been badly built, to be carefully examined, and made more secure. The wooden rail which connects this airing yard with the outer wall, and which is now of no use, to be removed, as it would facilitate an escape.

5. An airing yard, similar to that which has been constructed

for male prisoners, to be made as already recommended for the females, as the females can at present communicate both with the male prisoners and with people in the street.

6. A small shelf to be put up in each cell, so that the cell may be kept neat, and every article in it may have a definite place.

7. A cheap night-vessel, such as is used in Derby prison, to be provided for the reception cell, and one or two for the hospital.

8. A pane of glass in each cell to be made to open, but to be provided with a lock, so that in particular cases it may be closed.

9. The keeper and matron to be directed to teach reading and writing, in every case in which a prisoner wishes to receive such instruction, is attentive to his lessons, and performs the proper quantity of work.

10. The keeper to be directed to keep a stock account of other things than food.

SCARBOROUGH.—BOROUGH LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected May 2, 1850.]

There has not been any alteration since my last Report on this lock-up house, dated October, 1848.

The recommendations in that Report—first, that a stove be put up to warm the cells, and, secondly, that no prisoner be allowed to have any food until he has washed himself thoroughly—have not been carried into effect.

The place was clean.

The number of prisoners last year was 270, which is 103 more than in the previous year. At the time of my visit, however, the place was empty.

HALIFAX.—DEBTORS' PRISON FOR PART OF YORKSHIRE.

[Inspected May 6, 1850.]

There has not been any alteration in the building since my last report on this prison, dated September, 1847; but the use of the prison has been much extended, county court prisoners being now received into it from Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, Wakefield, and other places; there is space, however, for a much larger number of prisoners than even the present, for whereas the greatest number last year was 24, there is accommodation for about 120 prisoners.

The average number of prisoners last year was 14, which is three more than the average in the previous year. On the day of my visit there were 23 prisoners.

Since the establishment of county courts all the commitments have been by these courts.

The building seemed to be in good repair.

The rules in force are dated May, 1846; the chief exception that I found to their observance was a practice of smoking, as

shown by the smell of tobacco in several of the rooms. The rule in the statute, also, appointing certain duties to be performed by a chaplain, has not been acted upon, no chaplain having been appointed, though the keeper is in the habit of reading prayers on the Sunday afternoon; and the rule in the statute (not, however, incorporated in the prison rules) requiring that the surgeon shall see every prisoner twice a week, has not been carried out.

The prison was clean, but in some of the rooms there was a want of neatness. There was scribbling also in some of the books.

The bedding was good and sufficient, but some of the prisoners' clothing was ragged, there being no provision for supplying prisoners with clothing when their own is unfit for use.

The dietary is that recommended by the late Secretary of State for county court prisoners. I found the food of good quality. Its cost, however, is high (about 6*d.* per day, per head), owing probably to the small number of prisoners, and to there having been, as I was informed, till within the last week, only one baker at Halifax, and consequently no competition in the supply of bread, the general practice at Halifax still being for families to bake their own bread.

The prisoners appeared to have had good health. The surgeon stated as follows:—

"All the prisoners except one are in good health. The prisoner who is ill has rheumatic fever, brought on apparently by intemperance and cold before he came to the prison, joined to a predisposition to the complaint. The general health of the prisoners since Mr. Hill's last inspection has been good. There has not been any prevailing disease in the prison since that time. The only disease to which the prisoners are at all more liable than persons in the same class of life out of prison is constipation of the bowels, and that only in a slight degree."

The ventilation of some of the rooms was impeded by the windows having been made fast by paint, and not having subsequently been loosened.

The keeper and matron reported favourably of the general conduct of the prisoners; though, judging from the smell of tobacco in several of the rooms, it is probable that some infringements of the rules escape detection. Last year there were only two cases of punishment.

The only classification is the separation of the sexes.

No prisoner made any complaint.

The registers are neatly kept, and had been brought up to the present time.

The system of accounts affords a sufficient check on the disbursements.

The average cost per prisoner last year, exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs, was about 18*l.*

The keeper appears to be well qualified for his duties. The matron is old, but her duties are in part discharged by the keeper's wife, who is her daughter-in-law.

I made the following recommendations:—

1. A chaplain to be appointed.

2. The day and hours for visits to prisoners to be fixed; and arrangements to be made, as explained to the keeper, for preventing forbidden articles from being conveyed to prisoners by visitors.

3. The prisoners to be required to keep all their rooms, the chapel and every place which they use, clean and neat; and the rule imposing part of this duty on the keeper to be cancelled.

4. The yard of the hospital to be made more secure in the way pointed out to the keeper.

5. A room, as suggested by the keeper, to be used as a schoolroom; and the prisoners to be encouraged to instruct each other, so as to fill up part of their idle time.

6. Some suits of strong plain clothes to be provided for the use of such prisoners as have not clean or decent attire of their own.

HALIFAX.—DEBTORS' PRISON FOR THE MANOR OF WAKEFIELD.

[Inspected May 6th, 1850.]

There has been no alteration in the building since my last Report, dated September, 1847, but a new keeper (son of the late keeper) has been appointed.

The prison is private property, under the jurisdiction of the Duke of Leeds as Lord of the Manor.

The keeper is not paid by salary, but by fees exacted from the prisoners.

The prison was empty, and I found that there had been only one prisoner for a year and a half.

The place was dirty.

As stated in a previous report, this prison is quite unnecessary, and should be abolished.

HALIFAX.—BOROUGH LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected May 6th, 1850.]

A new lock-up house in connection with the police station has been made, containing two day rooms and six cells of the following dimensions:—

Rooms and Cells.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.
	feet.	feet.	feet.
1	14	11¼	10½
1	15	12¼	10
3	7	6½	11
1	9	7½	8
2	7½	5	8

The site is unobjectionable.

The cells are dry, properly lighted, warmed, and ventilated, and are secure.

There is a resident keeper.

The bedding is sufficient.

The prisoners have two meals per day, consisting of coffee, bread, and broth; but the quantity is not fixed.

The place was clean and neat.

I should not apprehend any danger to health from confinement here.

This lock-up house was first brought into use on the 25th June last; since which time there have been 576 prisoners, viz., 493 males and 83 females; but at the time of my visit the place was empty.

The keeper seemed to be properly qualified for his duties. His wife has charge of the female prisoners.

This lock-up house appears to be suitable for its purposes.

WAKEFIELD.—COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[The Inspection began May 7th, 1850.]

In accordance with some of the recommendations in my last Report (dated November, 1849), the ventilation of the solitary cells has been improved, and a provision made for warming them; and the exercise of the prisoners in the airing yards has been made more active by the prisoners running part of the time; but the recommendation to make the cells more secure by putting wrought iron bars before the windows has not been acted upon.

The surgeons stated that the introduction of running as a regular part of the exercise had been very beneficial.

A new school-room has been fitted up, and the accommodation for instruction in the county department thereby much increased.

By the labour of the prisoners, provision has been made for warming and ventilating about a hundred more of the cells in the old part of the building.

By the employment of the prisoners in this work, instead of hiring tradesmen, a great saving, as mentioned in my last report, has been effected, and much useful and instructive labour obtained for the prisoners.

The governor stated as follows:—

"The whole cost, per cell, of warming and ventilating the old part of the prison, exclusive of the value of the labour of the prisoners employed on the work, has been only 2*l*. The work, nevertheless, has been very well done, and both the warming and ventilating prove very satisfactory."

At the suggestion of the governor the number of officers has been somewhat reduced.

The buildings appeared to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners (exclusive of 400 transports) during the year ending 31st March, 1850, was 580, which is 13 above the average in the previous year. Of late, however, the number of prisoners has considerably diminished; so that though the average number through the whole year was rather greater than in the preceding year, the average in the last quarter (notwithstanding it was a winter quarter) was less, viz., 545, whereas in the corresponding quarter of last year the average was 628.

At the time of the inspection, exclusive of 371 transports, there were only 467 prisoners, viz., 413 males and 54 females.

I was much struck with the unusual proportion, in a prison, of intelligent and respectable looking young women. I was informed that many of them were servant-maids, and committed for the first time for thefts in the several houses in which they were in service. It is very possible that in these cases, as in others that have come to my knowledge, there had been reprehensible carelessness in exposing money or other such property; thereby leading the servants into temptation.

The only important exception to the observance of the rules at present, is that untried prisoners are required to wear the prison clothing.

The task-system has recently been re-introduced as regards a portion of the prisoners; the governor having modified the plan of fixing the amount, so as to save much trouble in working it. So far, he reported, the plan, as now modified, had succeeded very well.

The average clear value per head of work done for sale by the West Riding prisoners in the year ending Michaelmas, 1850, was 3*l.* 14*s.*, and the estimated value of work done for the prison was about 16*s.*, making a total of 4*l.* 10*s.*, which is much above the general average in English prisons.

The prison was very clean, as were the persons of the prisoners.

I was pleased also to observe the good state of the Bibles, library books, and writing books. There were few, if any cases in which there was scribbling, such as often disfigures these books in prisons.

The clothing and bedding are sufficient.

A new dietary for the West Riding prisoners has just been approved of by the Secretary of State, and it came into use during the time of the inspection. It is of course impossible as yet to say whether it succeeds in practice.

The surgeon in the transport department stated that in many cases he found it necessary to give prisoners rather more food than the prescribed dietary, and that in very few cases had he to diminish the allowance.

I found the food, as usual, of very good quality, though it was stated that the bread is sometimes rather sour.

The cost of the food of the West Riding prisoners in the year ending Michaelmas 1850 was about 3½*d.* per day per head.

The prisoners looked tolerably well in health, although there were more that were pallid and more who had glandular swellings on the neck than at my last inspection. This the surgeon of the transport department accounted for by the circumstance of my last inspection being at the beginning of winter, while the present was at the end of winter; a period during which there is less out-door exercise and, the surgeon added, less light (to which he attaches a sanitary effect) than in the other seasons of the year.

Mr. Dunn, surgeon in the West Riding department, stated as follows:—

"The prisoners generally are in good health at present. Almost all the hospital cases are cases of syphilis or itch, contracted, of course, before admission. Of 23 prisoners in the hospital at present, five males and six females are labouring under attacks of syphilis, and six prisoners (males) have itch. There is, however, at present, no serious case of illness of any kind. I am convinced that many persons, especially females, get committed to the prison on purpose to be cured of attacks of syphilis. Many of them have admitted to me that it was so. A man from Bradford who went out last week told me that he had been here before, and that he had got committed again in consequence of his having a return of his disease (syphilis), and that he came to be cured. The hospitals in the West Riding do not admit syphilitic patients, and hence I suppose it is that persons so attacked often look on the prison as an hospital for their disease, and by committing an offence force their way into it. Prisoners labouring under this disease often require a costly diet, as well as medical treatment, and they can do no work. They are, therefore, among the most expensive prisoners that we have. One man who was here for a month last autumn, and who came in a very diseased state, but who left cured, required, during nearly the whole time, a pint of wine per day, besides malt liquor. It was a case of sloughing chancre, in which a very liberal diet is necessary to preserve life; and it was requisite to have a prisoner, acting as nurse, to sit up with him through the night. The cost to the West Riding of this single case, counting expenses of all kinds, could not have been less than 6*l.*

"The general health of the prisoners since Mr. Hill's last inspection has been very good. There has not been any epidemic, and there has been only one death. The prisoners, as I have stated before, are much more liable to scrofula and consumption than persons in the same class of life out of prison, and cases of delusion are more common, but there are not more cases of insanity than among the same number of persons in their class of life out of prison."

Some of the non-medical officers in the West Riding department were of opinion that after some months the prisoners generally fell off in health.

Mr. Milner, surgeon of the convict department, said:—

"The general state of health among the prisoners, at present, is good, although there is an unusually large number (six) of serious cases of

illness. Besides these prisoners there are only three who are not well enough to work. I considered the prisoners who are seriously ill to be in good health at the time of their admission. I do not think that in any instance the illness in these cases is materially attributable to the discipline or other circumstances of the prison, but as I have remarked before, when chronic diseases once appear in the prison, they are generally obstinate and difficult to deal with. The general health of the prisoners since Mr. Hill's last inspection has been very good. There has not been any epidemic since that time. I am now, however, of opinion that the prisoners, while less liable to fever and other acute disorders, are more exposed to scrofula and consumption than persons in the same class of life out of prison; and as I have stated before, the prisoners generally lose tone during their confinement. There is a marked difference generally in the physical condition of prisoners from Scotland as compared with English prisoners. Those from Scotland are generally thinner, of less weight, and of less muscular firmness; and a much greater proportion of them have harsh, rough skins, instead of the skin being soft and smooth, as it is in a healthy state. The number of prisoners we have received from Scotland is now so large (about 300) as to enable me to come to a safe conclusion on this subject." *

I have heard conflicting remarks from medical men on the importance to be attached to a change in weight as an indication of health. Mr. Milner, whose habit of extensive and careful observation entitles his opinion to much attention, stated as follows on this subject:—

"All the prisoners are weighed every month, and I consider the information obtained by this measure to be very valuable. In a great proportion of the cases in which a prisoner's health has failed in this prison, it has been found that a gradual loss of weight for several months had preceded the appearance of any more direct symptoms of disease. It frequently occurs that prisoners who appear to be in good health, and have not complained either of illness or of wanting more food, have been found to have lost weight steadily for several consecutive months. In such cases I am accustomed to give more food, and I am fully satisfied that by so doing I have prevented serious failure of health, from which it might have been difficult, if not impossible, to have recovered the patient. There are, perhaps, a few cases in which a prisoner on admission may carry more flesh than is necessary for the maintenance of a state of good health, and therefore in which he may lose weight with the effect of improving rather than of deteriorating in health; but such cases would be readily distinguished from those in which a gradual loss of weight was the first symptom of incipient disease, and my experience would lead me to say that the number of cases in which a prisoner loses

* I think it is possible that part, if not the whole, of this physical inferiority of the Scottish prisoners may be owing to the fact that in Scotland the punishment of transportation is less resorted to than in England, and is not generally awarded till a later period in a criminal's career, and when, consequently, the drunken and profligate life generally led by criminals is likely to have more impaired the constitution. Mr. Milner has been kind enough to undertake to ascertain, as far as practicable, how far the difference in the condition of the two classes of prisoners can be traced to this cause, but he has not yet been able to make the investigation.—March 5th, 1851.

weight with advantage to his health is infinitely small compared with the number of cases in which the loss of weight is associated with a lowering of the general tone of the system, which, if not checked, would result in the development of any disease to which the prisoner had a predisposition."

The number of punishments last year was less than at the rate of one per annum per prisoner. The most severe punishment was solitary confinement in the dark with bread and water for three days. In no instance had it been found necessary to apply to a magistrate to administer a greater punishment than is within the authority of the governor.

The Rev. Mr. Alderson, chaplain of the West Riding department, regretted that motives to moral restraint and general good conduct were not offered to the prisoners under his charge, similar to those presented to the transports in the other part of the prison; and the governor on this subject stated as follows:—

"The conduct of the transports is decidedly better, as a general rule, than that of the best conducted class of West Riding prisoners, namely, those sentenced to long periods of imprisonment. This I attribute to the motives to good conduct held out to the transports, while no such motives are presented to ordinary prisoners. The transport knows that the length of the period of separate confinement, and afterwards of confinement in association, and subsequently of restraint and surveillance, in the colony to which he may be sent, are dependent to a considerable extent on himself; in a word, that it rests with himself, and depends on whether he is industrious or idle, orderly or disorderly, obedient or refractory, what shall be the amount of his punishment; while the ordinary prisoner knows, that whether he conducts himself well or ill, he cannot, under ordinary circumstances, diminish or add to his punishment by a single day's imprisonment."

The chaplain of the transport department said:—

"I have received very favourable accounts of the conduct of the prisoners on their passage to Australia, but there has not yet been time enough to obtain information of their subsequent conduct. Of the prisoners, however, who received pardons before transportation, and were consequently liberated in this country (about twelve I think in number), I have ascertained that six, or about one half, are living honestly and respectably, and I have had unsatisfactory information of only one."

Some prisoners made complaints of different kinds, but only one complaint proved, on examination, to have any foundation, and this complaint had no reference to the prison. In the case referred to, a prisoner stated that as he had been convicted of felony, he had been deprived of his money, and should have nothing to carry him home with; the prisoner's friends living in London.

The registers were in a proper state, and brought up to the present time.

The net cost per prisoner in the year ending Michaelmas, 1850,

was between 13*l.* and 14*l.*, which is more than 8*l.* below the general average in English prisons.

The general result of the inspection was very creditable to Mr. Shepherd the governor, and to the other officers.

I made the following recommendations:—

1. The wrought iron bars, which are before some of the cells in the new building, to be strengthened by a cross-bar; and wrought iron bars to be put before a considerable portion of the other cell windows in this part of the building.

2. The cells in the old building, which are now warmed, to be otherwise prepared (which can be done at a small expense) for being certified as fit for the separate confinement of prisoners; and, if they should be required, the cells in the basement floor of the new building (about 100 in number) to be also completed and fitted up for the separate confinement of prisoners.

3. As a general rule, every prisoner to go into separate confinement for a short period at least on his admission, and immediately before his discharge.

4. The gas-works to be gradually removed, as the different parts wear out and require replacing, to another part of the grounds; so that the fumes from them may not, as at present, be carried by the prevailing winds into part of the prison.

5. Another and more suitable part of the building to be appropriated as a bakehouse.

6. When there is a convenient opportunity, the airing yard belonging to the hospital to be enlarged; which can be done, at very little expense, by the labour of prisoners.

Owing mainly to the untiring exertions of a benevolent lady at Wakefield, and to liberal contributions from many of the magistrates and other inhabitants of the West Riding, a house of refuge for discharged female prisoners has now for some time been open at Wakefield. Its scope certainly has been small, the ordinary number of inmates not being more than seven or eight, but on such as have been received within its walls the system of management appears to have had a very beneficial effect. Of 16 persons who have passed through the institution, seven, or nearly one half, are known to be now living honestly and respectably; and it is sufficient to witness the industry, neatness, and modest deportment of those now in the refuge, and the expression of their countenances, free alike from moroseness and hypocrisy, to be satisfied that great moral improvement is going forward.

After witnessing the excellent training for domestic service which the inmates are undergoing, I was not surprised, though much pleased, at learning that there are more applications to the refuge for servants than can be supplied.

One good characteristic of this refuge is the prevailing air of cheerfulness. Sometimes it appears as if it were deemed necessary to make such institutions as dull and melancholy as possible;

a course, a common effect of which is to scare away those whom it is desired to gain over to the cause of virtue. This frequent mistake, however, of presenting virtue in an unnatural and repulsive garb has here been wholly avoided. There is plenty of active work, and this is combined with cheerfulness, with which indeed useful labour ought always to be associated.

To free the institution, however, from objections of all kinds, and to render it a source of unmixed satisfaction, it would be necessary, in my opinion, to render it self supporting, and to open its doors to all who are ready to submit to its rules; so that it may never be said that a premium is offered to crime. How far it would be possible, in the present instance, to approximate to this state of things, I cannot say; but I was glad to find that the lady to whom the institution is so much indebted was alive to the importance of keeping this object steadily in view.

The following are portions of the reports of the surgeon and chaplain of the transport department to the Visiting Justices, for the year ending December 31, 1850.

Mr. Milner, the surgeon, states:—

"The alteration of the exercise mentioned in my last Report has been continued during the year; and the men now run and walk alternately. This change has been found to answer very well. Very few of the prisoners are either unable or unwilling to run; and numbers of them have expressed to me their conviction of the greater benefit they have derived from the active exercise they get here, than from the slower exercise they had in the prisons from which they have been brought.

"Another year's experience confirms me in the opinion expressed in former Reports, viz., that a good supply of work is essentially necessary to enable men to undergo imprisonment in separation, without risk of injury to their health. . . . .

"The chief disease causing death has been tubercular consumption. I am of opinion that the amount of this disease is increased by the dryness of the air in the cells, which operates injuriously, both by its direct irritating action on the mucous membrane of the lungs, and also by drying the various matters in the cells, rendering them more easily reducible to powder, and thus loading the air with dust.

"The proneness to tubercular disease among prisoners is doubtless in a great measure owing to their previous habits; for many of them have seriously injured their constitution by drinking, dissipation, and exposure to hardships; and as a predisposition to this class of diseases is so marked, it evidently becomes of the highest importance to avoid, as far as may be possible, all exciting causes likely to rouse it into action."

The Rev. Mr. Reynolds, the chaplain, states:—

"Of the great majority of the whole number who have been under my spiritual care during the past year, I am also able to speak very favourably. As regards prison conduct, out of the 461 men removed, 377 were not punished; while, on the other hand, marked attention and decent behaviour in chapel, diligence in the private use of religious and secular means of improvement, deep consciousness of their unworthi-

ness of any favour, gratitude for the many advantages which they enjoyed, openness in their intercourse with the Assistant Chaplain and myself, patience under their punishment, and an honest determination by the Grace of God to amend their lives—according to His Holy word—afforded grounds to hope that a very large number had been benefited by the means used for their reformation. This opinion is fully supported by the schoolmaster's report, which will be found in Appendix No. 1.

"Another year has tested the propriety of removing the Chapel stalls, and I am thankful to be able to state that the results have been most satisfactory. It not unfrequently occurs that a month passes without a single report of misconduct in Chapel; while, on the other hand, the deep attention and reverential deportment of nearly the whole of the men at public worship, have on several occasions drawn from visitors expressions of the highest commendation.

"Much valuable information was received during the past year with reference to men who had passed through a period of probation in this prison.

"One hundred convicts sailed for Australia, with tickets of leave, in Feb. 1849, and reached Sydney in July, 1849.

"Although much aversion to convict labourers had excited in the Colony, when those men arrived, the excellent characters which their faithful Surgeon-Superintendent, Colin Arrott Browning, Esq., R.N., was able to give, secured for those men a welcome, and induced the Colonists to employ them in preference to emigrants, who had arrived simultaneously with the convicts.

"The following extract of a letter received by Dr. Browning, from the office of the Principal Superintendent of Convicts in New South Wales, relates to the conduct of those men six months after their arrival in the Colony:—

'I have pleasure in stating to you, that the convicts brought by the Hashemy still continue to maintain a character for honesty and good conduct, unequalled by any prisoners who have arrived here. Their masters speak in high terms of the standard of their morals; they appear to be impressed not so much by a fear of punishment, as by the dictates of a mind strongly cleansed and sifted by the reformatory process they have gone through.

(Signed) 'A. G. Dumas.'

"I have also received most satisfactory accounts of convicts sent abroad with tickets of leave in other ships."

WAKEFIELD.—BOROUGH LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected May 10th, 1850.]

The cell mentioned in my last report as being damp has been rendered dry; and preparations have been made for warming the upper cells.

The number of prisoners last year was 464, namely, 389 males and 75 females. At the time of my visit there was only one prisoner.

The cells were not neat, and part of the bedding was not clean.

LEEDS.—BOROUGH PRISON.

[The Inspection began May 11th, 1850.]

The only alteration of any importance in the building since my report last November has been in the cell windows, many of which have been made to open; which I consider an improvement.

There has been no change in the discipline, but a new chaplain has recently been appointed.

Besides those cells which have not wrought iron bars to the windows, there are still two places in which there is a danger of escape.

The building seemed to be in good repair, but the drains were not in proper order, in consequence of an oversight in their construction, by which no provision had been made for flushing them. Some of the prisoners, however, were employed in remedying this defect.

Owing in part to the bad construction of the drains, and in part to the slight way in which the plumbing work was done, the water-closets in the cells have been a source of much annoyance and expense, and have required frequent repairs and alterations.

The average number of prisoners last year (exclusive of transports received under contract with Government) was 191; which is about the same as in the previous year. At the time of my visit, there were 189 borough prisoners, and 77 transports.

The rules still acted upon are those which are in force in the prison at Wakefield. These rules do not appear to have been submitted to the consideration of the Secretary of State with reference to the prison at Leeds, and indeed a new body of rules is now in preparation.

There is at present no important exception to the observance of the rules.

The work department is in as satisfactory a state as the circumstances of the prison will perhaps readily admit, though the amount of earnings remains very small absolutely, whatever it may be in comparison with the generality of English prisons.

The clear value per head of work done for sale, in the year ending Michaelmas 1850, was 2*l.* 13*s.*; and the estimated value of work done for the prison 2*l.* 15*s.*, making a total of 5*l.* 8*s.*, which is much above the general average in English prisons.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"I commence my daily duties at eight in the morning, by reading prayers in the chapel. I then see in private any prisoners who may be leaving the prison that day, or who may have arrived since the previous morning; and I visit any who may be under punishment in solitary confinement. I then generally visit in their different cells the prisoners in some one of the divisions of the prison, containing 34 cells. This occupies me till about noon, when I leave for a time, and return at 2. At this hour I generally go into the school-rooms, and superintend the proceedings there. About twice a-week also in the afternoon I take a

class for religious instruction; and when I have not had sufficient time to complete the visits to prisoners in their cells in the morning, I give part of the afternoon to that duty. By the rotation which I follow, I am enabled to see every prisoner in private once in about nine days, besides more frequent visits in particular cases. I am organizing a class also for psalmody in the evening. On an average, I pass nearly six hours per day in active duty in the prison. The schoolmasters give about five hours each day to the business of instruction, and are chiefly employed in teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic."

The prison was very clean, as were the persons of the prisoners; but some of the books were not in a proper state.

The clothing and bedding were sufficient.

The dietary appears to be sufficient, and as mentioned in the last report, in some cases more than sufficient. I found the food to be of good quality.

The prisoners had generally a healthy appearance, though there was not that freedom from glandular swellings which I remarked at my last visit. Nevertheless the number of such affections was small, and might readily be explained, as in the report on Wakefield prison, by the circumstance of the two inspections being made at different seasons of the year. The surgeon stated as follows:—

"The prisoners are at present in good health. The following is the entry of my last monthly inspection:—

"*Thursday*, May 2, 1850.—Made the monthly inspection; found all the prisoners (both of the borough and convicts) looking well; no one confined to bed, and the complaints made are of a commonplace character; those of glandular swellings are in general better. The weather is fine, the cells well ventilated, clean, and comfortable, the provisions of good quality, and every necessary attention appears to be paid by the officers to those under charge.

"There are no prisoners who are off work from illness, but there are two or three who are not able to do more than light work. The general health of the prisoners since Mr. Hill's inspection last November has been very good. There has been no prevailing disease, and very few serious cases of illness of any kind. There is nothing in the prison tending to cause illness. The prisoners generally improve in health, especially those who remain a long time."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good. The number of punishments last year was at the rate of less than one per annum per prisoner.

Only one prisoner made any complaint, and his complaint proved to be unfounded.

The following is a copy of a useful notice hanging in each prisoner's cell:—

"The following duties must be performed every morning:—

1. Fold up the bed.
2. Clean the cupboard.
3. Wash the closet.

4. Put everything in order.
5. Have your cell clean.
6. Be clean and neat at 6 o'clock every morning."

The following are extracts from the governor's journal:—

"1849. *December* 4.—Visited the Juveniles' Ward, and ordered that the prisoners there should be supplied with task work. Also read to them an article in Chambers's Journal, respecting the Reformatory at Red Hill Farm near London; some of the boys expressed a wish to be sent there.

"1850. *January* 9.—I am sorry to say that in consequence of the bad state of the road [owing to a doubt as to who is bound to maintain it], I cannot get even oakum to tease for the employment of the prisoners, so that many of those confined for short periods are idle.

"1850. *January* 17.—Many of the prisoners have requested permission to work later at night in their cells, which of course I have granted.

"1850. *February* 16.—S. H. R., a boy committed for three calendar months, under the Juvenile Offenders Act, for stealing a pair of shoes, who states that his parents are dead, and that he lives with his grandmother, an old woman receiving money from the parish, when asked if he would like to go to the Industrial School, instantly refused, saying he did not like such places. His grandmother states that she is unable to keep him.

"W. O. aged 9, also refused to go to the Industrial School, though requested to do so by his father, himself a convict in this gaol. This boy has been twice in custody before under the Juvenile Offenders Act, and has been whipped besides. These are only examples of the depravity of the generality of boys committed, and confirming the testimony of 30 boys who, on being questioned, without exception acknowledged that their imprisonment did not proceed from want, as they had all honest means of gaining a livelihood, if inclined to follow it."

The net average cost per prisoner in the year ending Michaelmas 1850, was about 19*l.*, which is about 3*l.* less than the general average in English prisons.

The entries in the visiting justices' minute book showed the same vigilant superintendence on their part as heretofore.

The following statement was made by G. P., aged 27, a prisoner convicted of housebreaking, and sentenced to 15 years' transportation. The governor said that he believed the statement to be true:—

"I am a married man and have two children. I was never in custody for any offence before committing the crime for which I am now suffering. At that time I had been out of employment, and saw no means of gaining an honest livelihood. I had previously had a good deal of work and could have saved money. The reason I had not done so was that my wife spent my wages in liquor as fast as I could earn them. She would bring any one to the house to chat and drink with her. I used regularly to pay 8*s.* or 9*s.* per week for drink, and sometimes as high as a pound. I bore this a long time, and tried every way to put a stop to it, till I became reckless and thought I should be more comfortable

in a prison. I did not think I should be transported, but I wanted my wife to feel my loss, and thought that would put an end to her extravagance. Had I had an industrious sensible wife, I should never have been in my present situation. Many gentlemen in the neighbourhood where I lived can testify (as many of them have done before) that I have always been a steady, hardworking man. I know it was very wrong to commit the crime under any circumstances, and I own that my sentence was just. I now wish to be sent abroad, where by good conduct and industry I may retrieve my character, and may have my wife and children, still dear to me, sent to the colony. I believe my punishment has had the desired effect on my wife, as she has expressed great penitence since my committal to prison. I would gladly pay any reasonable amount in my power towards the expense of their conveyance to the place of my destination."

The general result of the inspection was creditable to Mr. Paige, the governor, to Mrs. Curtis, the matron, and to the other officers.

I made the following recommendations:—

1. Windows with shutters to be put in the dark cells; so that when these cells are not required for punishment (which they seldom are) they may be used as ordinary cells.

2. These cells, and the other cells on the basement floor (altogether 12 in number), to be fitted up with a view to their being certified as fit for the separate confinement of prisoners.

3. The school-rooms to be furnished with desks.

4. Measures to be taken for having the road leading to the prison, which remains in the same bad state in which it has been since the prison was built, put into a proper state. Among other evils arising from the present condition of this road, is a danger of an escape of prisoners, from the van in which they are conveyed being upset.

LEEDS.—BOROUGH LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected May 14th, 1850.]

There did not appear to have been any alteration since my last report, dated November, 1848. The number of prisoners last year was 2784, about one-sixth of whom were females. At the time of my visit, however, there were only two prisoners.

The place was tolerably clean, but not so neat as it should have been.

NORTHALLERTON.—COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[The inspection commenced May 15th, 1850.]

The new wing mentioned in my last report has been completed, and at my present visit I examined the cells with a view to their being certified as fit for the separate confinement of prisoners, and brought into use. The new wing contains 120 cells, constructed

in the ordinary way, like those in Pentonville prison, for separate confinement.

In accordance with some of my recommendations the drainage and ventilation of the prison have been much improved: the prisoners are required to get up early in winter as well as summer: some of the females' cells have been prepared for the separate confinement of prisoners; and the rain water, which formerly ran to waste, has been collected.

A new hospital has been constructed, and other alterations in the old part of the prison were making.

The average number of prisoners last year was 131, which is exactly the same as the average in the previous year. At the time of my visit there were 117 prisoners.

Owing to the alterations which were going on in the building, and to the office of matron being at present vacant, several of the rules were in abeyance.

Again I found many prisoners unoccupied; but I hope when the new building is brought into use, all will be employed. To this end the governor has received authority from the visiting justices to visit the prison at Wakefield, in order to see the different kinds of work carried on there. The chaplain stated as follows:—

"There has not been any change in my routine of duty since Mr. Hill's last inspection. In accordance, however, with his suggestion, I have introduced psalmody and the practice of responding into the service, and the change has proved quite successful. The prisoners now evidently have pleasure in assembling for public worship. I consider the prisoner named W. M. to be quite sane, and that his misconduct is the result of mischief, or of a design to weary the magistrates into recommending his liberation. I believe him to be a bad man, and that if he were liberated, he would probably return to a life of crime. The prison serves to a considerable extent as a place of refuge for destitute people."

The governor stated that a prisoner had lately been discharged who had had both his feet amputated in the prison. He said that this man had arrived at the prison in a miserable condition, and that he believed that the magistrate who had committed him had done so from motives of charity. He said that the man had been exposed to such severe cold by lying in the open air several nights, that mortification of the limbs had commenced, and that he believed that if he had remained out of prison a single day longer, he would have lost his life; as it was, life had only been saved by the speedy amputation of both the man's feet.

No schoolmaster has yet been appointed.

The prison was clean, as were the persons of the prisoners; but some of the clothing was out of repair, and among the female prisoners especially, there was a want of neatness.

The bedding was sufficient.

The Amended Dietary is about to be introduced.

I found the food to be of good quality. Its present daily cost is rather less than three pence per head.

The prisoners appeared to be tolerably well in health. The surgeon stated as follows :—

"The prisoners are at present in very good health, better than usual. There are, however, eight prisoners who are not well enough to work: only two of the cases, however, are serious, and in both these cases the prisoners were ill on admission. The general health of the prisoners since Mr. Hill's last visit has been tolerably good. There has not been any case of Asiatic cholera, although cholera was very bad in the prison at the previous visitation in 1832; and even diarrhœa has not appeared as an epidemic since Mr. Hill's last visit. I attribute much of the improvement in health to the removal of the privies which communicated with the wells, and rendered the water unwholesome."

The surgeon is very infirm, and his duties are chiefly performed by deputy.

There appeared to have been much misconduct during the last year, especially among the female prisoners. The bad conduct was chiefly attributed by the governor to the crowded state of the prison.

Notwithstanding there was much misconduct, the number of punishments was small; whence it may be inferred that many offences escaped detection.

Few prisoners made any complaint, and none of the complaints were found on examination to have any foundation.

There were two children in the prison, who had been committed with their mothers, but who were too old to have been properly sent with them, one being four years old, and the other six.

I found the registers and accounts in a proper state.

The system of accounts appears to afford a sufficient check on the disbursements.

The food and most of the other stores are supplied by public contract, but not the coals.

The average cost per head last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was nearly 25*l.*, which is about 3*l.* above the general average in England, and 9*l.* above the average in Scotland.

The officers of this prison appear to be efficient, but there is great room for improvement in the state of the discipline. Much allowance must be made for the hitherto crowded state of the prison, and I hope that as means have now been provided for remedying this evil, I shall be enabled in my next report to speak of a great improvement.

PONTEFRACT.—COUNTY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected May 17th, 1850.]

There did not appear to have been any alteration in this lock-up house since it was last reported on by an Inspector of Prisons;

and the description which Captain Williams gave of the dark, cold, and damp state of many of the cells, still applies. It is true that persons are confined in them only at the time of the General Sessions, which are held here once a year; but in their present state they are wholly unfit for use, however short the period of detention, and it would be difficult so to alter them as to put them into a satisfactory state.

I was glad to learn that it is in contemplation to remove the sessions from Pontefract to Wakefield; which for several reasons appears very desirable. I recommended, however, that if this proposal should not be adopted, the small room adjoining the two large rooms in the upper part of the building should be used as a room for female prisoners; that the two large rooms referred to should be appropriated to male prisoners (for whom they would afford sufficient accommodation); that provision should be made for warming them, which could be done at little expense; and that the lower cells should be entirely abandoned.

The place was clean, but not very neat.

As the sessions were not holding, it was of course empty.

DONCASTER.—BOROUGH PRISON.

[Inspected May 17th, 1850.]

This prison is now seldom used except as a lock-up house; for in terms of a contract with the magistrates of the West Riding, convicted prisoners and prisoners committed for trial are sent to the prison at Wakefield. Since the establishment of county courts also debtors are no longer sent here.

There did not appear to have been any alteration in the building since it was last reported on by an Inspector of Prisons. The building is quite sufficient for its present purposes.

At the time of my visit there were two prisoners, both waiting for examination. Neither of them made any complaint.

The place was clean. The keeper has a respectable appearance, and seems to be properly qualified for his duties. His wife has charge of the female prisoners.

There is apparently but little crime at Doncaster.

SHEFFIELD.—DEBTORS' PRISON FOR THE LIBERTY OF HALLAMSHIRE.

[Inspected May 18th, 1850.]

This is a private prison, under the jurisdiction of the Duke of Norfolk. Since my last Report, dated November, 1847, the drainage has been improved, but there has not been any other change of importance.

As mentioned in my last Report, this prison, since the establishment of the county courts, has been but little used, and it is

desirable that it should be wholly discontinued, and the prisoners sent either to Halifax or York.

There is still no female officer.

The average number of prisoners last year was only two. On the day of the inspection there were three prisoners, two males and one female.

The only two rooms in the prison now in use were tolerably clean, but they are ill ventilated.

It having been several years since there was a female prisoner, until the commitment of the present female, and the rooms formerly appropriated to these prisoners not being therefore in a proper state for use, the keeper had considerately and humanely given this prisoner (a widow) a parlour and bed-room in his own house.

Smoking is allowed.

One of the prisoners who had been in confinement several months, complained of the allowance of food being restricted to a pound and a half of bread daily. Whatever may be thought of the quantity, the want of other elements of nutrition than those contained in bread must be serious, when continued for a considerable period. I recommended therefore that a pint of skimmed milk be added to the allowance of bread.

I recommended also that smoking be abolished, and that the ventilation of the bedrooms be improved.

These recommendations were adopted.

An officer of this prison, who is also a bailiff of the county court at Sheffield, stated that about a fortnight before he had been employed in conveying a county court prisoner to York for a debt of 3*l.* who was able to get full work, and who with the help of two boys earned 14*s.* per day, but who the week before had worked only two days. The officer said that the man applied to his master to advance him a sum of money to enable him to pay the debt, but that his master had very properly refused.

It is difficult to imagine on what ground so idle, improvident, and worthless a fellow should be treated differently in prison from an ordinary delinquent, and should be allowed to continue in prison the same habits of idleness which had prevented his paying his just debts when out of prison.

SHEFFIELD.—POLICE CELLS.

[Inspected May 18th, 1850.]

There has not been any material alteration since my last Report, dated November, 1847.

The cells, which are below ground, dark, and ill ventilated, are very ill adapted for places of confinement not only on the score of health, but for the yet more important reason of the corruption

which must necessarily go forward under such circumstances, however short the period of confinement.

In one of these dark and ill-ventilated cells I found five prisoners, including men and boys. One of the men, a notorious drunkard, appeared to be still under the effects of a recent debauch. The cell, as might be expected, was very offensive.

Owing to the quarter sessions having been held the day before, when there was an unusual number of prisoners, the place was not so neat probably as under ordinary circumstances. It wanted whitewashing also.

There were eight prisoners.

The number of prisoners last year was 3088, and in the preceding year 3006.

It would be impossible by any amount of alteration to make this lock-up house suitable for its purposes. The only effectual remedy would be to build an entirely new one, on the land at the back of the town hall; and this I recommended to be done.

As an immediate measure, I advised that the cells should be limewashed every month.

I was glad to learn from the efficient superintendent of police, that there has for several years been a gradual decrease of crime at Sheffield; and that at the Quarter Sessions just held, there had been a very light calendar, the whole number of cases for a large district of the Riding, including Sheffield, having been only 15. Unhappily, however, there appear to be symptoms of a revival of the offences which have so much disgraced part of the working classes of Sheffield—offences arising from strikes. A warrant is now out for the apprehension of 20 men who have been coercing other workmen who wished to perform their contract to work for their employers at certain wages.

BRADFORD.—COUNTY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected May 20th, 1850.]

There has been no alteration in the building since my last Report upon it, dated November, 1847; but owing to the borough prisoners having been withdrawn from it and confined in the borough lock-up house, there are now generally very few inmates; indeed it is often empty.

At the time of my visit the place was certainly crowded, there being not fewer than 37 prisoners, but this was owing to the General Sessions then holding; all these prisoners having been brought from Wakefield.

The prisoners were divided into parties, and each party was in a room without any superintendent; so that much contamination must have been going on. Indeed the rooms were so dark that at the best only very imperfect order could have been preserved.

It is very desirable, in my opinion, that the practice of removing large numbers of prisoners from place to place for trial should be abandoned.

The place was tolerably clean, considering the number of prisoners, but the air in the cells was very impure for want of better ventilation; and I pointed out how the ventilation might be improved.

BRADFORD.—BOROUGH POLICE CELLS.

[Inspected May 20th, 1850.]

Since my last Report, dated November, 1847, the cell floors have been raised, the ventilation has been improved, and the cells have been furnished with water-closets.

The cells appear to be now always dry.

Rugs and mattresses have now been supplied.

The place was clean.

All the borough prisoners are now confined here, instead of most of them being taken to the county lock-up house as formerly. If there were more room this arrangement would be very judicious, as it prevents the necessity of taking the prisoners backwards and forwards through the streets; but two cells (and there are only two) are quite insufficient for the number of prisoners. The keeper stated, indeed, that on one occasion there had been about 20 prisoners in these two cells.

I addressed a letter to the mayor, recommending the erection of a new range of cells, on some of the vacant ground behind the police office.

RIPON.—PRISON FOR THE LIBERTY OF RIPON.

[Inspected May 23rd, 1850.]

In compliance with some of the recommendations in my last Report, dated April, 1849, the following alterations have been made:—

1. Some complete dresses for prisoners of both sexes have been procured, but not of a sufficient variety in size, so that the rule on the subject of clothing is not yet in full operation when there are young prisoners.

2. Every prisoner has now a weekly supply of clean linen and stockings.

3. The bread is of a coarser and cheaper quality than that formerly given.

4. Gas has been introduced into the passages and some of the rooms, but not into the cells.

5. A register of punishments is kept.

The following recommendations have not been acted upon :—

1. Net-making and other kinds of useful employment to be introduced.

2. The prisoners to be required to rise not later than at six all the year round, and not to be allowed to go to bed before nine.

The foregoing recommendations, although not carried into effect, were adopted by the magistrates.

3. Every prisoner to be required to do a daily task, equal to ten hours' fair labour, and to lose part of his food when he does not do the stipulated quantity.

4. The upper cells to be prepared for the separate confinement of prisoners, according to the provisions of the 2 & 3 Vict. c. 56, s. 4.

5. In order to render the prison more secure, an airing gallery to be constructed as explained on the spot.

The drainage has been greatly improved, and new privies have been constructed.

There had not been any other alteration of importance either in the building or management.

The building appeared to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 5, which is about the same as in the previous year. At the time of my visit, however, there was only one prisoner, and she was a stranger. The governor said that he believed that at that time there was not a single person belonging to the Liberty of Ripon (containing 27 townships) who was in prison either at York or elsewhere, either as a criminal or debtor.

The Chaplain stated as follows :—

"I have continued as heretofore to visit the prison, to perform Divine service and to converse with the prisoners, three times every week. The conduct of the prisoners when at chapel, or otherwise under my charge, has been generally very good. Indeed I have never any trouble with them."

The chaplain also teaches some of the prisoners reading and writing.

The prison was very clean.

The surgeon stated as follows :—

"The general health of the prisoners, since Mr. Hill's last inspection, has been exceedingly good, in common with that of the district generally. There has been no epidemic in the prison, and no serious case of illness of any kind. The place is always very clean and well ventilated."

The food was good, and appears to be sufficient in quantity. Its cost is about $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ per day.

The general conduct of the prisoners seems to have been good, but there were two or three bad exceptions, as shown by the following extracts from the misconduct-book :—

"G. W. alias C. J. (an Irishman), age 34, threatened to strike down the governor and all who came near him. It required the

assistance of four men to secure him in irons. Three prisoners, viz. G. T., J. A., and R. C., rushed forward to secure him.—Put in irons, and kept on bread and water 3 days."

"Same day, W. W., age 24, committed along with W.—Made use of threatening language, and conspiring to break out of prison along with W. and others.—Same punishment."

If the airing gallery which I recommended had been constructed, these prisoners would probably have seen that any attempt to escape would be fruitless, and would not have made it. Fortunately, three of the prisoners, as shown by the extracts, assisted in securing the most determined of the prisoners. The governor said, indeed, that they acted as well as three officers could have done.

The only prisoner in confinement made no complaint.

It is desirable that this prison should be discontinued, except as a lock-up house, and the prisoners sent to Wakefield.

RIPON.—DEBTORS' PRISON FOR THE LIBERTY OF RIPON.

[Inspected May 23rd, 1850.]

In accordance with the recommendations contained in my last Report (dated April 1849), some more bars have been put before the windows, and an inspection-slide has been placed in the door of the passage leading to the debtors' rooms.

There has not been any other alteration.

The place was clean.

There has not been any prisoner since the last inspection; and, as mentioned in my last Report, it is desirable that this prison should be wholly discontinued, as being ill-constructed and unnecessary.

RIPON.—LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected May 23rd, 1850.]

In accordance with the recommendations contained in my last Report (dated June, 1849), the allowance of food is now a pound and a half of of bread and a pint and a half of oatmeal gruel, coffee, or warm milk, given in three equal meals; no prisoner is at liberty to have any food, whether at the cost of the Liberty or not, till he has washed himself thoroughly; a night-stool on a proper construction has been provided for each cell; and a record is kept of all persons confined in the lock-up house.

Notwithstanding these improvements, which, as will be remarked, are all of a minor kind, the place is but little fitted to its purposes, and could not be rendered a proper place of confinement. If the other two prisons, however, at Ripon should be discontinued as regular prisons, there will be no difficulty in obtaining a good lock-up house without the cost of building.

The place was clean.

Last year there were 74 prisoners, but at the time of the inspection the place was empty.

BEVERLEY.—COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[Inspected May 28th, 1850.]

The ventilation of the cells for refractory prisoners, the defective state of which was noticed in my last Report (dated November, 1849), has been remedied; more of the cells have been prepared (by the prisoners) for separate confinement; a provision has lately been made for giving the females instruction in reading and writing; a supply has been obtained of new bibles and prayer books: the new dietary recommended by the Secretary of State has been adopted; and a stock account for clothing, &c., has been opened.

There did not appear to be any other alteration, either in the building or discipline.

The building seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 110, which is 16 more than the average in the previous year.

The chief increase has been in the vagrants. In the first of the two years there were 508 vagrants, and in the second (ending March 31, 1850) 682.

I found the following to be the chief exceptions to the observance of the rules:—

1. Some of the cells have been used to a great extent for separate confinement, though they have not yet been certified as fit for such use.

2. The chaplain now sees many of the prisoners periodically in private, but not all of them, and he does not yet give the prisoners religious instruction in classes; the stipulated time of his attendance (an hour and a half daily, which, however, he generally somewhat exceeds) not being sufficient to admit of this.

Many of the prisoners still pass far too much time in bed.

The clear value per head, in the year ending Michaelmas, 1850, of the work done for sale was nearly 2*l.*, and the estimated value of the work done for the prison about 1*l.* 10*s.* per head.

The chaplain being unwell, I did not see him.

The prison was very clean, as were the persons of the prisoners.

The clothing and bedding were sufficient.

The potatoes were not good, owing probably to the season of the year.

The surgeon concurred with me in considering the bread to be of too fine a quality.

The daily average cost of the food for the year ending Michaelmas, 1850, was about 3½*d.* per head.

The prisoners had generally a tolerably healthy appearance; and the surgeon stated as follows:—

"The general state of health in the prison, at present, is good. There

are only two prisoners who are sufficiently unwell to be off work, but both these cases are serious. One is that of an old man who was in good health on his admission, but who has now chronic diarrhœa, and the other is that of a young woman who is consumptive, and who was so on her admission. The prisoners have generally had good health since Mr. Hill's last inspection. Small pox, indeed, appeared, but by vaccinating many of the prisoners, I prevented its spreading, and there consequently were only two cases."

There is still gross misconduct sometimes among the untried prisoners, owing to the want of better rules respecting them; but the general behaviour was reported to have been good. The number of punishments last year was only 207.

A few prisoners made complaints, but the complaints were found on examination to have very little foundation.

The registers and accounts were in a proper state.

The net average cost per prisoner in the year ending Michaelmas, 1850 (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs), was rather less than 20*l.*, which is about 2*l.* less than the general average in English prisons.

The general result of the inspection was creditable to Mr. Alfred Shepherd the governor, to Mrs. Walker the matron, and to some of the other officers.

There are about four acres of land belonging to the prison, and contiguous to it, which might be turned to excellent account by setting some of the prisoners to cultivate them. On this subject the governor stated as follows:—

"I should have no fear of any prisoners escaping, or attempting to escape, if I were allowed to employ such as I might select for the purpose on the land belonging to the prison and adjoining it, even without a wall round it. I find indeed from the statement of one of my officers who has been here many years that formerly some of the prisoners were in fact employed in one of these fields, and that none of them attempted to escape.

"The prisoners might grow on part of this land all the potatoes and other vegetables that they consume, and the remainder might be made very productive and profitable by them as a market garden."

I recommended that a contract be entered into with the West Riding, so as to allow of some prisoners being removed to Wakefield when the prison here is crowded, and to allow also of an interchange of prisoners of different occupations when the convenience of both prisons would be thereby promoted.

BEVERLEY.—BOROUGH PRISON.

[Inspected May 28th, 1850.]

There has not been any alteration since my report in November last.

The place was clean.

There was no prisoner.

I would suggest that a good purpose to which this prison might be applied would be to use it as a females' prison, in connexion with the county prison. The room which is now turned to no account here would afford accommodation for all the female prisoners at the county prison, and thus add considerably to the space for male prisoners there, and withdraw the females from close proximity to the male prisoners; both of which changes would be important advantages.

LINCOLNSHIRE.

LOUTH.—HOUSE OF CORRECTION FOR THE DIVISION OF LINDSEY.

[Inspected May 29th, 1850.]

Owing to the absence of the governor, who had gone to Leeds to take some prisoners sentenced to transportation, the inspection was not a full one.

There appeared to be no material change since my last Report (dated June 1849), and the evils of bad association, waste of labour, and partial idleness there described continue as heretofore; but owing happily to causes affecting the country generally, the number of prisoners is much less than it was this time last year; so that the sleeping cells and other parts of the prison were not crowded to the same extent as at my last visit.

Much additional accommodation and other advantages might be obtained by transferring the female prisoners to the prison at Spilsby: and this measure I recommended at my last visit, but it has not been adopted.

While there is a deficiency of sleeping cells here (even with the present number of prisoners), at Spilsby there are 25 empty cells.

There were 50 prisoners, whereas on the corresponding day of last year there were 96.

More than half the prisoners committed since last autumn were vagrants.

The prison was very clean, and most of the prisoners had both a clean and healthy appearance.

LOUTH.—BOROUGH LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected May 29th, 1850.]

I mentioned in my last Report (dated June, 1849) that it was in contemplation to build a new police office and lock-up house, which are much needed, but I am sorry to say that nothing has yet been done towards carrying this project into effect. I called the attention of the town council to the subject, and was informed

in reply, that they had a convenient site, and were disposed to provide a suitable lock-up house at the earliest opportunity, but that they were at present unable to do so for want of means.

There has not been any change in the present cells.

The dietary now consists of half a pound of bread with some coffee three times a day.

The place was clean, but one of the cells was close, and I suggested a simple means of improving the ventilation.

The number of prisoners last year was 97, which is much less than the number in either of the two preceding years, though it is greater than in either of the three years before those.

At the time of my visit the place was empty.

SPILSBY.—HOUSE OF CORRECTION FOR PART OF LINDSEY.

[Inspected May 30, 1850.]

In accordance with some of the recommendations contained in my last Report (dated June, 1849), shoemaking and tailor's work have been introduced: no prisoner is now required to ascend more than 10,000 feet in any one day on the treadwheel; some suitable books for teaching reading have been procured; a record is kept of the weight, on admission and liberation, of all prisoners, except those committed for very short periods; the untried prisoners are allowed to wear the prison clothing; and a more durable kind of clothing has been introduced. But the following recommendations have not been carried into effect:—

1. The building originally intended for an hospital, to be used as a females' prison, so as to liberate for male prisoners that part of the main building now occupied by females; and to make the separation of the two sexes more complete.

2. Such of the cells as can be used for separate confinement, to be fitted up accordingly, with a view to their being certified.

3. The governor to visit the prisons at Wakefield and Leeds, and if possible some of the Scottish prisons also, with a view to the introduction of useful kinds of labour, including mat-making basket-making, and knitting.

4. The poor-law auditor for the district, or some other properly qualified person, to be engaged to audit the accounts periodically.

The new dietary recommended by the Secretary of State has been adopted.

The building seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 46, which is nearly the same as in the previous year.

At the time of my visit there were 38 prisoners, which is 10 less than on the corresponding day of last year.

The chief exception to the observance of the rules is that no work, except mere cleaning, is usually provided for convicted male

prisoners not sentenced to hard labour, or for unconvicted male prisoners.

There being no supply of artificial light, the prisoners continue to pass far too much time in bed.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"The routine of my duty continues the same as described in Mr. Hill's last Report. The prisoners make as much progress in religious and secular knowledge as can be expected under all circumstances. The general conduct of the prisoners when at chapel, or otherwise under my charge, has been very good. I am sorry to observe that the present system of discipline here does not deter people from the commission of crime. Several have said that they would rather come here than go to the union workhouse. I fear also that the system is but little calculated to improve the characters of the prisoners. At present the novices in crime must be initiated into greater crime."

A more efficient schoolmaster is required. The person in office, against whom there were other causes of complaint than the want of greater efficiency, stated his intention of resigning, which relieved me of the painful duty of recommending his removal.

At my last visit, I was obliged to recommend the appointment of a new schoolmaster, and the person then in office was dismissed. I was informed that several persons since that time had been taken on trial for the combined office of schoolmaster and warder, but that none had proved to be properly qualified.

The prison was very clean, as were the persons of the prisoners.

The clothing and bedding were sufficient.

The food was of good quality.

The governor stated that he found a considerable saving in having the meat cooked in the way recommended by Liebig; that is, by putting it in boiling water for about a quarter of an hour only, and then completing the process by placing it in water of a lower temperature. He said that not only was there a considerable saving, but that the taste of the meat was improved. The following statement on the subject appeared in Chambers' Edinburgh Journal, for November 1847, page 293:—

"To boil beef without losing the nutritious and savoury elements, Liebig gives the following directions:—The water is in the first place to be put into a brisk boiling state; into this boiling water the meat should be plunged, and allowed to lie for a few minutes. It is then taken out, and cold water is to be poured into the boiler till the heat be reduced far below boiling, or to about 160 degrees; the meat is then put in again, and kept in the water at this temperature for two or three hours: everything is in this way effected that can render the flesh pleasant and wholesome as food. The contact with the boiling water at the outset coagulates the albumen of the flesh all round the surface of the meat, and closes up its pores with a solid wall, that none of the internal juices can pass through, and the meat is preserved in all its integrity, while undergoing the action of the heat."

The surgeon stated as follows :—

"The prisoners are at present in very good health. There is not one that is unwell. The health of the prisoners has on the whole been very good since Mr. Hill's last inspection. There has not been any epidemic in the prison. The prisoners are not more liable to scrofula or consumption, or to any other disease, than persons in the same class of life out of prison; nevertheless, those who stay such a period as twelve months in the prison lose tone and fall off somewhat."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been very good; but, as remarked in my last Report, owing to many of the prisoners being associated and from under constant observation, many offences probably escape notice.

Three of the prisoners complained of the conduct of the schoolmaster, and on investigation their complaints were found to be just.

A prisoner who was employed in some work outside the prison, made his escape a few months ago, but he was retaken the same day.

Except that one of them was in arrears, the registers and account-books were in a proper state.

The net cost per prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was about 23*l.*, which is 1*l.* above the general average in England and 7*l.* above the average in Scotland.

At a small expense all the cells might be prepared for the separate confinement of prisoners for short periods, and many for indefinite periods; and thus the vicious practice of indiscriminate intercourse might (with the ordinary number of prisoners) be prevented. And this I recommended should be done.

BOSTON.—COUNTY AND BOROUGH PRISON.

[Inspected May 31, 1850.]

I was glad to find that nearly all the recommendations contained in my last Report (dated June, 1849) had been carried into effect. The power of the treadwheel has been turned to a useful purpose, and its ventilation improved; the prisoners are required to bathe at stated times; milk has been introduced into the dietary; the female prisoners have instruction in reading and writing; untried prisoners are allowed to wear the prison clothing; and other minor changes have been made.

The recommendation, however, to discontinue the prison for females, and to send all such prisoners to Spalding, has not been adopted.

The new dietary recommended by the Secretary of State has been brought into use, except that milk porridge is given for breakfast, instead of oatmeal gruel.

The building seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 27, which is two more than the average in the previous year.

At the time of the inspection there were 20 prisoners, viz., 17 males and 3 females.

The chief exception to the observance of the rules is that little work of any kind is found for prisoners not sentenced to hard labour.

Artificial light not being supplied, the prisoners continue to pass far too much time in bed.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"The only changes in my routine of duty since Mr. Hill's last inspection, is that I now make it a rule to see every prisoner in private on his admission and discharge, and that a record is made of each prisoner's character and previous imprisonments. The prisoners are very willing to receive both religious and secular instruction, and in the latter some of them make considerable progress, but the period of detention is generally too short to admit of much improvement in religious knowledge, especially considering the very ignorant state in which most of the prisoners are found to be on their arrival. The conduct of the prisoners when at chapel or at their private conversations with me is respectful and good. I think that the present system of discipline in this prison has no deterring effect on idle people (who would, I believe, rather come here than go to the union workhouse), but that respectable people would dread being sent here. Owing to the contamination arising from the want of the means of separating the prisoners, I think that few can leave this prison improved in character."

I examined some of the prisoners in elementary instruction, and found their progress to have been tolerably satisfactory, especially in writing.

The prison was clean, as were the persons of the prisoners.

The clothing and bedding are now quite sufficient.

Except the potatoes, the use of which it is desirable should be discontinued at this season of the year, the food was of very good quality.

The prisoners had a tolerably healthy appearance, though it is found that they generally lose in weight. The surgeon said:—

"Most of the prisoners are at present in very good health, and no one is more than slightly unwell. Their general health has been tolerably good since Mr. Hill's last inspection. At the time of the cholera, which was very bad in this neighbourhood, especially in the workhouse, no case appeared in the prison. There has not been any prevailing disease of any other kind since the last inspection. There is not any disease to which the prisoners are more liable than persons in the same class of life out of prison."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good; but owing to the association of the prisoners without constant supervision, many offences probably escape detection. Where, as in this prison, such offences as gambling, fighting, and stealing are sometimes committed, it may be safely assumed that many lesser offences pass unnoticed.

Only one prisoner made any complaint, and his complaint proved to be groundless.

The registers and accounts were in a proper state.

The provisions and other stores are supplied by public contract; the same parties being generally taken as contract to supply the workhouse.

The net average cost per prisoner last year was 29*l.*, which is 7*l.* above the general average in England. This greater cost is chiefly owing, apparently, to the small number of prisoners, the expense of officers not diminishing proportionately with the number of prisoners.

Although this prison is very ill adapted to its present purposes, it might, I think, serve tolerably well as a prison for female prisoners; and at any rate the experiment could be readily tried. I am quite convinced of the expediency of either thus appropriating it or of reducing it to a mere lock-up house, or of discontinuing it altogether.

I addressed the following letter to the Visiting Justice on the expediency of appropriating this prison to the use of female prisoners:—

"GENTLEMEN, "*Stamford, 4th June*, 1850.

"Since leaving Boston it has occurred to me, that although the prison there is very ill adapted to its present purposes, it might serve tolerably well as a prison for female prisoners, both for Boston and Spalding, and thus effect a great improvement in the discipline at both places; for while the prison at Boston is quite unsuited for the number of prisoners often confined in it (the greater portion of whom are males), and very unfit for the reception of prisoners of different sexes, there is at the prison at Spalding plenty of room for more male prisoners, but nearly the same difficulty of preventing communication between male and female prisoners (unless the female prisoners be congregated in one bed-room at night) as at Boston.

"The number of female prisoners both at Boston and Spalding being small, there would be ample accommodation at Boston for the females at both prisons.

"If it were found inconvenient for some of the male prisoners to wash the clothes at Spalding (as is done at Durham and some other places), the clothes might be sent by railway to Boston, in the same way as they are sent from Norwich castle to the females' prison at Wymondham.

"In the few cases in which it might be necessary to remand a male prisoner for a longer period than he could be detained at the lock-up house at Boston, he might be sent to the prison at Spalding, and brought back again for re-examination.

"If the recommendation for using the prison at Boston for females alone be adopted, I would suggest, for the sake of good discipline and economy, that it be placed, like the prison at Wymondham, exclusively under female management."*

* This prison has now been discontinued—January, 1851.

BOSTON.—BOROUGH LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected May 31, 1850.]

In accordance with one of the recommendations in my last Report (dated June, 1849) proper water-closets have been substituted for the night-vessels formerly in use, and which were often very offensive; but the recommendation, that the allowance of food should be restricted to a pound and a half of bread daily, and that no prisoner should be permitted to have any food till he had washed himself thoroughly, do not appear to have been acted upon.

The place, which was empty, was clean and neat.

In the course of the last year there were 277 prisoners, viz. 255 males and 22 females. The number is, within one, the same as in the previous year.

SPALDING.—HOUSE OF CORRECTION FOR THE SOUTHERN DIVISION OF HOLLAND.

[Inspected May 31, 1850.]

In accordance with some of the recommendations in my last Report (dated June, 1850) useful work (sack-making) has been introduced to some extent; the ventilation of the washhouse has been improved; a more desirable kind of dress has been introduced; no convicted prisoner is permitted to wear any article belonging to himself; untried prisoners are allowed the use of the prison dress; the officers wear a uniform; and some other minor changes have been made. But the following recommendations have not been acted upon:—

1. In order to put an end to the present practice of prisoners congregating in day-rooms without supervision, and to introduce to some extent the principle of individual separation, the night-cells to be warmed by means of stoves placed in the lower passages, with openings in the floors of the passages for the warm air to rise through, (beginning as an experiment with one set of passages,) so that the prisoners may have their meals in their cells, instead of assembling in the day-rooms. The day-rooms to be prepared, by being supplied with bells, and with earthenware night-vessels, (such as are in use at the city prison at Lincoln,) &c., for being certified as fit for the separate confinement of prisoners; and when so certified, to be used, as far as practicable, as separate cells.

2. Such articles of clothing as cannot be made in the prison, to be procured from some other prison in the county.

3. Every prisoner to bathe, not only on admission, but subsequently once at least in each month.

In my last Report I stated that a schoolmaster was then about to be appointed. This has now been done, but not till within the last six weeks.

The building seemed to be in good repair, but the boundary wall in one place approaches so near the inner railing as to be rather insecure.

The average number of prisoners last year was 39, which is four more than the average of the previous year. The greatest number at any one time during the year was 50, while the number of cells and day-rooms is 65.

On the day of the inspection there were 37 prisoners.

The chief exceptions that I found to the observance of the rules were, first, that though there is an improvement in this respect, useful labour is not yet found for all the prisoners, and, secondly, that the surgeon has not hitherto been in the habit of making a minute monthly inspection of the prisoners.

Artificial light not being yet supplied, the prisoners continue to pass far too much time in bed.

It appears that there was an error in my last Report, in stating that the misdemeanants passed the greater part of their time in idleness. On this point the governor, at my present visit, stated as follows:—

"At Mr. Hill's last visit there was only one convicted prisoner who had not been sentenced to hard labour. He was not at work, but this was quite an exception to the usual practice; such prisoners being generally fully occupied, during the working hours, in cleaning the yards and other work of the kind."

In my last Report I remarked on the circumstance of three female prisoners sleeping in the same room, although some of the females' cells were unoccupied; but at my present visit I learnt what I was then not aware of, that the object of this was to prevent communication between male and female prisoners, which can be carried on when females are confined in the main part of the prison. On this subject, the governor stated as follows:—

"When there are females in that part of the main prison which is appropriated to females, I frequently detect communication going on, by notes and otherwise, between the male and female prisoners, and often hear obscene conversation between them. In the separate building used for female prisoners there is only one bed-room, so that we are compelled either to let the females be together at night, or to be in cells from which they can frequently communicate with the male prisoners."

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"The routine of my duties remains as heretofore. The prisoners make very satisfactory progress in secular knowledge since a schoolmaster has been appointed, and, considering the short time that most of them stay, satisfactory progress also in religious instruction. Many of them seem to entertain very different views of their condition as sinners, before they leave, from what they held on their admission; and in some instances I have found by subsequent inquiries, that their conduct after their liberation has evinced the sincerity of their repentance. The

conduct of the prisoners when at chapel, or otherwise under my care, has been most exemplary. I am of opinion that the system of discipline as at present existing in this prison has a considerable deterring effect; though I believe that some parties prefer coming here to going to the workhouse, on account of the difference in the diet. I think also that the system is calculated to a considerable extent, when applied for a sufficient time, to improve the characters of the prisoners; though I think the effect would be much greater if the separate system could be introduced."

The schoolmaster, who has been lately appointed, appears to be very well qualified for his duties. At present he gives the whole of his time to the instruction of the prisoners, and the progress made, considering the short time that he has been in office, was very creditable—in some cases, indeed, surprising.

The prisoners are in school two hours each day, but one of the hours has been obtained by rising half an hour earlier in the morning, and continuing to work half an hour later in the evening.

The governor said that since the school was opened the conduct of the prisoners had much improved, and that the number of punishments had diminished.

There is still no regular provision for teaching the female prisoners to read and write, but the governor's daughter has been kind enough to give them occasional instruction of this kind.

The prison was very clean, as were the persons of the prisoners.

The clothing and bedding were sufficient.

Many of the prisoners complained of the insufficiency of the food, and of the irregular speed of the treadwheel, by which they were often compelled to labour excessively. I investigated the matter, and came to the conclusion that the miller had not been sufficiently careful in regulating the speed of the wheel, so as to prevent its going too fast occasionally; but as respects the quantity of food, the amount is greater than what is generally allowed, and I think that, with proper care to see that the men on the wheel are not overworked, it is enough. I quite however concurred with the surgeon, in advising that an additional allowance of bread should be substituted for the potatoes at this season of the year, as the potatoes at present contain but little nutriment.

The cost of the food last year was about 4½*d.* per head, and considering that the allowance of food to prisoners sentenced to long terms of hard labour is greater than what is generally given, this cost is not at all excessive.

The prisoners had a tolerably healthy appearance; the surgeon stated as follows:—

"The prisoners are at present in good health. There are only two prisoners who are not well enough to work, and one of these is a drunken man lately admitted, and who is evidently labouring under the effects of recent excess in drinking. The other man, J. S., has been in prison five months, but he admits that when out of prison he has been addicted to excess in drinking. He says that he generally drank a gallon of ale a

day. Neither of these cases of illness is serious. With the exception of many cases of diarrhœa, which arose, in my opinion, from indigestion, the general health of the prisoners since Mr. Hill's last inspection has been good. I think the prisoners have sometimes too great a bulk of food, and I am of opinion that it would be an improvement to reduce the quantity of potatoes at all seasons of the year to one half, and to substitute bread for them (in the proportion of one ounce of bread for four ounces of potatoes); and at this season of the year, when it is very difficult to procure good potatoes, to discontinue potatoes altogether, and to give bread in place of them. With this modification I should consider the dietary unobjectionable. There is not any disease to which the prisoners are more liable than persons in the same class of life out of prison. Prisoners confined for long periods generally fall off somewhat in health and strength, especially if at work on the treadwheel. They generally lose in weight. The loss of weight however is not generally great. Of 17 prisoners who have complained to-day to the Inspector of Prisons about their food and labour, only three have lost considerably in weight (four having gained in weight). Of the three referred to, one is the case of J. S. already mentioned; another, J. W., is subject to constipation, but I do not think his general health is worse than when he came to the prison; and the third, F. L., has had good health ever since he came. He is a man of dissipated habits."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good, but it is probable that some offences at present escape observation.

The following is taken from the Governor's Journal:—

"*November 5th*, 1849.—This morning at the breakfast hour W. L. was reported for having on the 4th instant stolen part of the allowance of bread belonging to W. H., who occupied the same day-room as L I duly investigated the charge, and found the complaint a just one: ordered L. into solitary confinement for half an hour.

"At the dinner hour L. was reported by several prisoners, who stated that he had been very abusive during the morning, in an under tone that the warder could not hear, and endeavoured to push J. S. from off the wheel. I ordered him to his night-cell for one hour; he refused to obey the order; I then directed that he should be put into the dark cell for the remainder of the day: this occurred at half-past one o'clock.

"At a quarter-past six o'clock in the evening, when locking up the prisoners for the night, I heard the warder Wilson call for assistance; I hastened to him from the floor above, and found that he had cut W. down, who had hanged himself, and was quite dead. I went immediately for the surgeon, who opened a vein, and said that life had been extinct some hours.

"On the 7th the coroner's inquest assembled at the Gaol, over the body of W. L., who committed suicide on the 5th instant; and returned a verdict of *felo-de-se*. This evening, at a quarter past nine o'clock, I attended the remains to the grave-yard, and saw them deposited in the earth.

"Another attempt at suicide during the year, which was nearly successful, was caused by a prisoner hearing that his wife had not been faithful to him during his imprisonment."

The registers and account-books were in a proper state.

All the chief articles of consumption, except coals, are now supplied by public contract.

The net average cost per head last year was rather less than 25*l.*, which is 3*l.* above the general average in England; but the difference is fully explained, partly by the small number of prisoners (the cost of officers not being proportionately small), and partly by a larger outlay for clothing this year, in order to obtain a sufficient stock and to carry the rules respecting clothing into full effect.

Owing to an error in calculation, the average cost in the year ending Michaelmas, 1848, as entered in my last Report, was overstated by 1*l.* per head.

I made the following recommendations:—

1. A portion of the prison to be prepared for the separate confinement of prisoners, in the same way as part of the prison at Beverley has lately been prepared; and if the experiment is successful, the arrangement to be extended.

2. When artificial light is introduced, the prisoners to be required to rise all the year round not later than at six, and to be required to perform a full day's labour, in winter as well as in summer.

3. As already recommended, such articles of clothing as cannot be made in the prison to be procured from other prisons in the county.

4. A meter to be attached to the treadwheel, in order to show at all times what is its rate of motion.

5. As recommended by the surgeon, bread to be substituted for potatoes at this season of the year, at the rate of a quarter of a pound of bread for a pound of potatoes, and in winter bread to be substituted for half the allowance of potatoes, at the same rate.

6. Arrangements to be made with the Justices generally in this part of the county for sending all female prisoners to the prison at Boston, and all male prisoners to this prison.

SPALDING.—COUNTY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected June 1, 1850.]

It was stated that there had not been any alteration since the place was last examined by an Inspector of Prisons.

There is only one room. It opens to the street, and there is no provision for warming it. The place, therefore, is quite unfit for its purposes, and it is very desirable that a proper lock-up house should be provided.

The place was in neat order.

There was no prisoner.

STAMFORD.—BOROUGH PRISON.

[Inspected June 3, 1850.]

In accordance with some of the recommendations and suggestions in my Report dated last July, the ventilation of the cells and of the infirmary has been improved; the surgeon now sees all the prisoners twice a week, and makes a minute inspection once a month; the keeper gives instruction in reading and writing to those who need it, the prisoners bathe regularly, and prison clothing is provided for female prisoners as well as for males. But the following recommendations, though ordered to be carried into effect, have not really been so.

1. The cells which are at present used only as night-cells to be prepared and fitted up with a view to their being certified for the separate confinement of prisoners.

2. The prisoners to rise not later than at six all the year round, and not to go to bed before nine.

3. As far as practicable, such kinds of work to be obtained as can be carried on in the cells, and the prisoners to be put on task-work.

4. A character-book to be kept.

Such an alteration has been made in the matron's rooms as gives her the means, to some extent, of superintending the female prisoners from them; and a gaslight has been provided for lighting the yards and exterior of the prison at night.

The allowance of food to prisoners in the 5th class has been increased by 4 oz. of bread daily.

The building appeared to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 8, which is double the average in the previous year. The increase, I was sorry to learn, had been chiefly among prisoners committed for felony.

On the day of my visit there were 12 prisoners, namely, 11 males and one female; and the number had for some time been about that; so that I fear that the average in the current year will be greater even than last year.

The chief exception to the observance of the rules is that useful employment, with the necessary materials and instruction, is not found for all, or indeed for many of the prisoners.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"My routine of duties remains precisely the same as at Mr. Hill's last inspection. To all outward appearances the prisoners make satisfactory progress in religious and secular knowledge, but in some cases I have been disappointed with their subsequent conduct. When at chapel, or otherwise under my charge, the conduct of the prisoners has been very good. I have had no complaint whatever to make, except in occasional cases of tramps, who appear to desire to be sent to prison. The present system of discipline here appears to me to have a considerable deterring effect, and I think that most of those (though they have been few in

number) who have remained a considerable time, say from six to twelve months, have been improved in character."

The prison was very clean, as were the persons of the prisoners

The clothing and bedding are sufficient.

The food was of good quality.

Most of the prisoners had a healthy appearance; and the surgeon stated as follows:—

"All the prisoners are in good health, except two. One of these cases is serious, but the prisoner was very ill on admission, and is better than he was then. The general health of the prisoners has been good since Mr. Hill's last inspection. There has not been any epidemic since that time. Cholera did not appear either in the prison or neighbourhood. There is not any disease to which the prisoners are more liable than persons in the same class out of prison. I do not know anything in the prison tending to cause illness. During the last year most of the prisoners have improved in health during their imprisonment."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good; but owing to their being associated, and not under constant supervision, many offences probably pass unobserved. The following extracts from the keeper's journal show that there is occasionally gross misconduct, such as seldom or never occurs in a well-constructed and well-regulated prison:—

"*April* 2, 1850.—W. J., two days' solitary confinement for making use of very bad language to the prisoners, and when in confinement his behaviour and language very bad, and using violent threats towards the governor and turnkey.

"*May* 4.—On examining C.'s trousers on being discharged, I found two notes, written in blood by the prisoner B., to send out by C. to a common prostitute in the town.

"*May* 6.—W. C., two days' close confinement for a violent assault and striking W. J. the other convict.

"T. B., 9 hours' close confinement, for encouraging C. to commit the assault on J.

"I reported the prisoner's refractory behaviour to the Visiting Magistrates immediately."

Debtors are no longer committed to this prison.

No prisoner made any complaint.

The registers and accounts were in a proper state.

The cost of the prison last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was about 274*l.*, which, divided by the average number of prisoners, gives about 34*l.* per head; this, though a large sum, is but little more than half the cost per head in the previous year, owing to the average number of prisoners being twice as great as in that year.

The best arrangement, in my opinion, as regards both efficiency of prison discipline and economy, if the present state of the law did not interpose obstacles, would be to close this prison and send the prisoners to Peterborough. Though even without sending the

prisoners into another county, better discipline might be obtained, and a very considerable saving effected by contracting to send the prisoners to Spalding.

Last year (though the number of prisoners was greater than usual) there were only 56 commitments altogether, and the cost of the conveyance of that number of prisoners to Spalding, including a proper allowance to the officers accompanying them, would probably have been less than 40*l.* As the present staff of officers at Spalding is quite sufficient for such a number of prisoners as would be sent from Stamford, in addition to the ordinary number of prisoners there, and as there is room for the Stamford prisoners, the expense to the county of receiving them would be but little besides their food and clothing, say 10*l.* per annum each, which, multiplied by the average number of prisoners, would be less than 60*l.* a year.

Thus the whole real expense of conveying the prisoners to and from Spalding, and of keeping them there, would probably not exceed 100*l.* a year, leaving a saving of more than 150*l.* a year (exclusive of the cost of repairs and alterations) to be divided between the borough and county: and this concurrently with obtaining for the use of the borough of Stamford a better prison than the existing one.

STAMFORD.—BOROUGH LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected June 4, 1850.]

In accordance with the recommendations contained in my last Report on this lock-up house (dated July, 1849), the daily allowance of food now consists of a pound and a half of bread, given in three equal meals, and no prisoner is permitted to have any food till he has washed himself thoroughly.

There has not been any other alteration.

The place was clean and neat.

The number of prisoners last year was 175, which is 33 less than in the previous year.

At the time of my visit there was only one prisoner.

GRANTHAM.—BOROUGH PRISON.

[Inspected June 6, 1850.]

I was glad to find that most of the recommendations and suggestions that I made at my last visit (and contained in my Report dated July, 1849), had been carried into effect. In accordance with these the convicted prisoners are now supplied with a more complete prison dress (though the dress is not yet quite complete), and the untried are also allowed to wear it; as far as practicable the prisoners make and mend their own clothing, and they now whitewash and paint the prison, instead of this

work being done by paid workmen: nevertheless, though the supply of work has been much increased, it is still insufficient and irregular; and, as heretofore, much of the labour (that of the treadwheel) runs to waste: lastly, a provision has been made for teaching the prisoners to read and write.

The recommendation for adopting a regular dietary, instead of giving an allowance of money to be expended in food, has not yet been acted upon; but directions were given at my present visit for adopting the dietary lately recommended by the Secretary of State.

There did not appear to have been any other change of importance. The state of the prison, therefore, though much improved, is still far from good, and in the present building it would be difficult to render it good.

I am clearly of opinion, as expressed in my last Report, that as soon as a suitable arrangement can be made, it is desirable that the prisoners, when convicted, or fully committed for trial, should be sent to a larger prison, and that this prison should be reduced to a lock-up house.

The building seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners appeared to be about the same as last year, that is, about 4 or 5. At the time of my visit there were 6 prisoners.

The chief exception to the observance of the rules is that the surgeon does not see every prisoner twice a week.

In accordance with the very objectionable practice noticed in my last Report, the medical attendant who was in office at my last visit went out at the expiration of the last mayoralty, and a new medical attendant was appointed.

No medical record has hitherto been kept at the prison.

Artificial light not being provided, the prisoners continue to pass far too much time in bed.

The chaplain of the prison stated as follows:—

"My routine of duties is just the same as heretofore. I perform Divine Service every Sunday morning, and on Wednesday I visit the prison to converse with the prisoners."

The teacher who has been appointed attends twice a week, for about an hour each time. He teaches the prisoners reading and writing.

I found the prison clean, but some parts of it were not sufficiently neat.

Considering that most of the prisoners had been lately employed in dirty work, they were moderately clean in their persons, though not so clean as is desirable.

Some of the Bibles and other books were not in a proper state.

The bedding appeared to be sufficient, but as regards the clothing there was an inadequate supply of stockings and of some other minor articles.

I tasted the food, and found it to be of good quality.

The prisoners, as a body, had a tolerably healthy appearance, and the surgeon stated as follows :—

"Except one man, the prisoners are at present in good health, and this man's case is not very serious, though he is sufficiently unwell to be off work. The general health of the prisoners, since my appointment last November, has been good. There has not been any death or prevailing disease among them. All the complaints have been of a trifling character."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good; but, as stated in my last Report, much misconduct could at present pass unobserved.

There was not a single case of punishment last year.

Some prisoners complained of the want of more food, and of having their hair cut too short, and part of their whiskers shaved off. As respects the food, it was difficult, owing to the want of a regular dietary, to determine whether the complaint was well founded; but the other complaints I considered to be just.

The registers were in a tolerably good state.

The entries in the Visiting Justices minute-book were creditable to the keeper and the other officers.

I made the following recommendations :—

1. A larger supply of stockings to be procured; caps and braces to be added to the prison dress; and no convicted prisoner to be allowed to wear any article belonging to himself.

2. Instead of each prisoner cooking by turns, and all being required to wash their own stockings, a single prisoner to act as cook, and the same or another prisoner to do all the washing.

3. The hair and whiskers of the prisoners not to be cut shorter than they are generally worn by people out of prison.

4. The surgeon to be supplied with a book (to be kept at the prison, and open to the inspection of the magistrates) in which to record his visits, all cases of sickness, and any thing which he may observe (such as a want of cleanliness or ventilation) that is likely to injure the health of the prisoners.

5. The prisoners to be allowed slates and pencils, in order to improve themselves in writing between the visits of the schoolmaster.

GRANTHAM.—BOROUGH LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected June 6, 1850.]

There has not been any alteration in this lock-up house since my Report on it last July.

The place was tolerably clean, and there was no prisoner.

The whole number of prisoners last year was 110, viz., 99 males and 11 females.

SPITTLEGATE.—COUNTY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected June 6th, 1850.]

The keeper stated that there had not been any alteration since the place was last examined by an Inspector of Prisons.

The place was clean, but the cells that were occupied were not neat.

There were four prisoners, none of whom made any complaint.

The whole number of prisoners last year was 140, viz., 122 males and 18 females.

Although there are but three cells, there were at one time as many as 16 prisoners.

The ventilation of the cells depends on a draught to be created by warm air in an extracting shaft: but, as is, I believe, frequently the case when this plan is adopted, the fire in summer, when ventilation is most required, is neglected, and the air in the cells becomes consequently very impure, as I found it to be in one of them on this occasion. In the other cell that was occupied the prisoners had broken a pane of glass, at the considerate suggestion, I found, of the keeper; so that in this cell there was a better supply of fresh air.

The simple mode of ventilating by an open window is, in my opinion, generally the best, as well as the cheapest; and I would suggest that one pane at least should be made to open in each of the windows in this lock-up house.

The wrought-iron bars before the cell-windows are too far apart for security.

With the exceptions mentioned, this lock-up house is tolerably well adapted to its purposes.

The keeper appeared to be properly qualified for his duties. His wife, who also seemed well qualified, takes charge of the female prisoners.

FALKINGHAM.—COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[Inspected June 7, 1850.]

In accordance with some of the recommendations contained in my last Report (dated July, 1849) the ventilation of the treadmill and dark cells has been improved, but the chief recommendations have not been acted upon. These were as follows:—

1. The prison to be discontinued for female prisoners.
2. Net-making and other kinds of useful work to be introduced, so that all prisoners may have employment.
3. Provision to be made for giving the prisoners instruction in reading and writing.
4. The convicted prisoners to be supplied with a complete prison dress and not to be permitted to wear any article of their

own; and the unconvicted prisoners to be allowed to wear the prison dress.

5. The poor-law auditor or some other well-qualified person to be appointed to see that the accounts are kept in a good form, and to examine them periodically.

The building seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 49, which is 5 more than in the previous year, and 9 more than the average in the last five years.

The governor stated that the increase had been chiefly in the number of poachers.

On the day of the inspection there were 61 prisoners, viz. 57 males and 4 females.

For these 57 male prisoners there were only 36 separate sleeping-cells; so that many had to sleep in the same room. Fortunately the infirmary was not wanted for sick prisoners, so that a considerable party could be put there.

The evil of association not based on good conduct and improved disposition (and it is not so based here) is bad enough if it be during the day only, but becomes, of course, much worse if it continue through the night.

For the female prisoners, whose average number is only five, there are nine rooms and cells; which might of course be added to the accommodation for male prisoners, if the females were sent to some other prison in the county; and the whole number of commitments of female prisoners being small (less than 30 per annum), the cost of their conveyance to another prison would, in my opinion, be small compared with the advantage to be obtained by the change.

The rules in force are dated 1824. The chief exception to their observance (including the rules in the Acts of Parliament) is that there is no provision for teaching the prisoners to read and write.

Artificial light not being provided, the prisoners continue to pass far too much time in bed.

The work department remains in a very unsatisfactory state; the great majority of the prisoners being either idle or employed in turning a treadwheel, the power of which is wasted.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"The routine of my duties remains just the same as described in Mr. Hill's last Report. The general conduct of the prisoners when at chapel, or otherwise under my care, has been good. I think the system of discipline here is calculated to deter people from the commission of crime, and also, as a general rule, to improve the characters of the prisoners; though I think that by providing employment for the untried prisoners, and more instruction for all, the improving effect of the discipline would be much increased. I am of opinion that, however necessary a very long term of imprisonment here may be in certain cases, its effect on

the character of the prisoner is bad; and that the best result is obtained in the cases of prisoners committed for moderately short periods."

The prison was quite clean, and the prisoners were clean in their persons.

The bedding is sufficient, but the supply of clothing is still insufficient; most even of the convicted prisoners are compelled to wear their own shoes and other articles. Some leather, however, has been purchased, so that when a shoemaker is committed some shoes will be made.

The dietary is that recommended by Sir James Graham, with an addition of six ounces of bread to the fifth rate. I found the food of good quality. Its daily cost last year was about 4½*d.* per head, which is rather above the general cost in other prisons.

The prisoners had a tolerably healthy appearance. The surgeon stated as follows:—

"The prisoners are at present in good health. There is only one who is unable to work, and he is better than he was on admission; his case is not at all serious. The general health of the prisoners has been very good since Mr. Hill's last inspection. There has not been any epidemic in the prison. The prisoners are not more liable to scrofula or consumption, or to any other disease, than persons in the same class of life out of prison. Prisoners who remain long in the prison, and who are put on the treadwheel, lose in bulk, but I doubt whether their muscular power is diminished. Such a prisoner is, in my opinion, better able, on leaving prison, to work for his living than one who has done no work."

The ventilation of the infirmary is defective.

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good; but, as stated in my last Report, it is probable, owing to the want of constant supervision, that many offences escape observation. I observed that one of the punishments in the last year (the party being an untried prisoner) was for "gaming with dice," and another for stealing bread.

The usual punishment is confinement in the dark cell with bread and water; but there was one case last year of corporal punishment.

The back of a young man who had been flogged by sentence of the Court exhibited a painful sight. The Surgeon having asked my opinion respecting the degree of severity to which such flogging should be carried, I stated that in my opinion it ought never to be such as to leave any permanent mark.

Only one prisoner made any complaint respecting his treatment, and his complaint proved to be groundless.

The registers were in a proper state.

The net average cost per prisoner last year was about 19*l.*, which is 3*l.* below the general average in England.

SLEAFORD.—COUNTY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected June 7, 1850.]

This lock-up house was built about five years ago. It stands at the outskirts of the town, in a tolerably good situation; though I think it would be more convenient if it had been built nearer the middle of the town.

There are four cells, of about the same size as those at Pentonville, and lighted, warmed, and ventilated in a similar manner.

From what was stated, however, it appeared that the plan of ventilation did not act well; and this, I think, is generally the case in small prisons, for want, sometimes, of a separate fire in the ventilating shaft, when, as in summer, the fire for heating is not kindled; and sometimes for want of that attention to the apparatus which it is almost vain to expect in a very small prison.

The cells form part of a police station, containing rooms for the superintendant and his wife, who act as keepers of the lock-up house.

The cells appeared to be quite dry, and to be tolerably secure, though it would be well to join the iron bars before the cell-windows by a cross-bar.

The bedding is sufficient.

The superintendant's wife (the superintendant himself being away on duty) said that the prisoners had the same kind of food as themselves.

The place was clean and neat.

There is a provision for the prisoners to wash themselves, and they are properly required to do so.

During the last year there were 48 prisoners, namely, 39 males and 9 females; but at the time of my visit the place was empty.

Upon the whole this lock-up house appears to be well adapted for its purposes.

LINCOLN.—COUNTY PRISON.

[Inspected June 8, 1850.]

In accordance with some of the recommendations contained in my last Report (dated June, 1849) an opening has been made through the roof, connected with the corridors; a fire is constantly kept in the extracting shaft; a chimney has been put to the cess-pool to carry away the foul air; shoemaking and other kinds of useful labour have been introduced (though not as yet to the extent recommended); the convicted prisoners are not allowed to wear any article of their own; the untried are permitted to wear the prison dress; and a record is made of the weight of the prisoners on admission and liberation.

The magistrates have had another door also made direct into the open air from the females' part of the prison; and have

reduced the cesspool in size, so as to diminish the quantity of offensive matter which can remain in it.

By the measures taken with regard to ventilation, the air in the prison has been rendered much purer. Indeed even at the most trying time, (early in the morning, before the prisoners have left their night-cells), I found the air in a satisfactory state. Still the original error (noticed in my last Report,) in the choice of the site of the new part of the building (that containing the separate cells), which tends to make the lower part of the place damp, and to prevent a free circulation of air, must, I fear, always make the prison liable to the inroads of sickness, unless great care be taken.

It was not found practicable, in the present state of the law, (owing to the circumstance of Lincoln being a county of itself,) to enter into a contract with the city magistrates for sending the female prisoners to the city prison; and the recommendations that the matron should instruct the female prisoners, instead of the schoolmaster being employed for that purpose, and that the prisoners should wash all the clothes, instead of the clothes of the male prisoners being sent out to be done by hire, have not been acted upon.

The sickness which was in the prison at my last visit, and which is fully noticed in my last Report, gradually disappeared, though there have lately been some fresh cases of fever of a mild character. The separate system, however, which had been in operation a few days when the first fever broke out, and which was then suspended, has not yet been resumed; but I am of opinion that it may now be tried again with safety.

The building appeared to be in good repair.

All the prisoners had the appearance of being in tolerably good health.

The surgeon himself was ill, but the medical gentleman who was acting for him stated as follows:—

"Six of the prisoners are unwell, not having yet fully recovered from an attack of fever, but all except one are now nearly well, and his case is not at all serious. The fever was contracted in the prison; the last case having appeared about a fortnight ago. The fever is of a mild kind. I think it has been caused by the want of purer air in the rooms and cells; arising from the system of ventilation. In a few of the cells, however, the windows are made to open, and in these the ventilation is good."

The building appeared to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 24; but neither this number nor the average in the preceding year can be taken as an index of the ordinary number of prisoners, owing to a long period of sickness in the prison, during which most of the prisoners were sent elsewhere. At the time of the inspection there were 36 prisoners, viz., 19 criminals (17 males and 2 females), and 17 debtors, all males.

Of the criminal prisoners 13 were transports waiting for removal.

Of the debtors two had been in four years, and one nearly 14 years; the latter, named H. Y. C., has grown old in the prison. All three are maintained at the cost of the county.

Respecting county-court debtors, the governor stated as follows:—

"I do not think that the County Court debtors here, as a general rule, much dislike to be committed to this prison, or have any great wish to be liberated. One man named J. S. has been here three times in the last 12 months, and the bailiff told me that this man said in open court, that he had no objection to go to prison, for that he was as well fed there as anywhere else."

The chief exception to the observance of the rules is, that at present there is no effectual classification of the debtors; all having access to the same yard throughout the day.

The prisoners continue to pass far too much time in bed.

The work is at present of much too light a kind. It consists chiefly of knitting.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"The routine of my duties remains the same as described in Mr. Hill's last Report, except that, owing to the small number of prisoners, my daily attendance at present is not more than about two hours and a half. The prisoners are making satisfactory progress, both in religious and secular knowledge, and their conduct when at chapel, or otherwise under my charge, has been uniformly good. The most refractory men give way to kind but firm treatment."

The schoolmaster gives about four hours per day, (a large allowance of time in so small a prison,) to the instruction of the prisoners, and teaches them reading, writing, and arithmetic.

I examined those under his care, and found that they had made very satisfactory progress.

The prison and the persons of the prisoners were very clean.

The clothing and bedding are sufficient.

The dietary remains the same as heretofore. The food was of good quality. Owing, however, to the large amount of extra allowance by order of the surgeon, in consequence of the prevalence of fever last year its cost was high, being 6½*d.* per head per day, or about once and a half the general cost in other prisons.

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good, but as the prisoners are associated without constant supervision, many offences may escape observation. The number of punishments last year was only nine.

All the male untried prisoners (five in number) were together, and unoccupied; three of them under charges of furious driving, one of arson, and one of murder. Such association must be very injurious.

No prisoner made any complaint.

The registers were in a proper state.

There is at present no account showing the receipt and consumption of food, but I was informed that one was about to be opened.

Owing to the small average number of prisoners last year, in consequence of the long-continued existence of fever in the prison, the cost per head was again very high; but, by an account which had been prepared of the expense of the prison before the late alterations in the building, and when there was an ordinary number of prisoners, it appeared that, under usual circumstances, the expense of the prisoners is not much above that of prisons in general.

I made the following recommendations:—

1. The separate system to be introduced again, beginning with one ward of the prison.

2. If the present plan of ventilation should again be found to work unsatisfactorily, the cell-windows to be made to open, and the cells to be ventilated by their means.

3. The prisoners to rise, all the year round, not later than at six, and not to go to bed before nine at night.

4. The prison to be kept nearly full at all times, by relieving other prisons in the county.

5, The cooking, clothes-washing, lime-washing, and painting to be done by prisoners, instead of by hired persons.

6. The matron, instead of the schoolmaster, to teacht he female prisoners.

7. Instead of all the debtors having access to the debtors' yard at the same time (which defeats any plan of classification), each of the three classes to have access to the yard during about a third part of the day, according to such arrangement as the governor may make with reference to the different seasons of the year and the general convenience of the prison; and during the other portion of the day the debtors to be confined to their day-rooms.

8. The allowance of fermented liquor to debtors to be reduced to a pint of malt liquor, or half a pint of wine.

LINCOLN.—CITY PRISON.

[Inspected June 11, 1850.]

I was sorry to find that very few of the recommendations contained in my last Report (dated June, 1849) had been carried into effect. The separate system is more acted upon, though not to the extent that is desirable; the male prisoners now bathe regularly, but not the females, the matron not having had instructions to that effect; and two or three other minor recommendations have been acted upon; but the following recommendations have not been carried out:—

1. A teacher to be appointed to instruct the male prisoners in the evening, in reading, writing, and arithmetic. The matron to teach the female prisoners.

2. A small prison library to be procured.

3. The treadwheel to be discontinued; but every convicted prisoner to be required to perform a daily task (equal to 10 hours' labour) of some other kind of work.

4. Sack-making and sack-mending to be introduced, and the governor to be instructed to use his utmost exertions to find useful and profitable kinds of work for all the prisoners; such as cannot be better employed being set to pick oakum.

5. The prisoners to rise not later than six o'clock, all the year round, and not to go to bed before nine at night.

6. Locks to be put on the cell-windows, so that when necessary these windows may be fastened to prevent prisoners from talking from cell to cell.

7. The present dietary being the same for all prisoners, and therefore too much probably for some and too little for others, the governor, subject to the control of the surgeon, to have power to increase or diminish it in particular cases, having regard to a difference in age, sex, kind of work, and industry.

8. The untried prisoners to be permitted to wear the prison dress.

9. A cell to be constructed for refractory prisoners.

10. No visits to be allowed to convicted prisoners unless the governor believes that in the particular case they will be productive of good. Visits to unconvicted prisoners to be restricted to one day in each week (except as regards their legal advisers), and the governor to have the power of refusing admission to any person whose character he may have reasonable ground to suspect is bad.

11. A misconduct-book to be kept, according to the form left with the governor.

12. A Visiting Justices' book to be kept.

13. The district poor-law auditor, or some other qualified person, to be appointed to see that all the accounts (including the work accounts) are kept on a good form, and to examine them periodically.

At the suggestion of the surgeon, the ventilation of the corridors has been improved by making small openings to the outer air.

The building seemed to be in good repair. As mentioned, however, in my last Report, it is not secure in all parts.

The average number of prisoners last year was 15, which is one less than in the previous year, but the same as the average of the last five years.

It is creditable to the town, that with a considerable increase of population, and with increased efficiency of police, there has not been any increase in the number of prisoners. The governor, who has been in office 13 years, states that when he first came to

Lincoln, drinking and gambling in public-houses were common, even among tradesmen of good standing, thereby affording a very bad example to those of lower station; but that there is now comparatively little of this.

The same rules are in force as heretofore, but a new code of rules has been submitted to the Secretary of State for his approval.

The chief exception to the observance of the present rules is that no provision is made for teaching the prisoners reading and writing.

The prisoners continue to pass far too much time in bed.

The work department is still in a very unsatisfactory state.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"My routine of duties continues precisely the same as described in Mr. Hill's last Report. When at chapel, or otherwise under my charge, the prisoners have been very attentive; indeed their conduct in chapel has been exemplary. I am afraid the present system of discipline here can have but little effect, in deterring people from the commission of crime. Men committed for misconduct at the workhouse have often told me that they would rather be here than there; as they have less work and more food. As I have stated before, it is desirable, in my opinion, that the separate system should be introduced; that a provision should be made for teaching the prisoners to read and write; and that a suitable prison library should be procured."

The prison was clean throughout, as were the persons of the prisoners.

The bedding is sufficient, as, except in some minor articles, is the clothing also.

A press is wanted to contain the clothing belonging to the female prisoners.

The present dietary being the same for all, is in some cases, in the opinion of the surgeon, excessive. The dietary is, however, about to be changed.

I tasted the food, and found it of good quality. Its daily cost last year was about 4¼*d.* per head; which is about the general cost in other prisons.

The prisoners appeared to be in tolerably good health. The surgeon stated as follows:—

"Except some slight ailments, only one of which has arisen in the prison, the prisoners are at present in good health; and the general health of the prisoners has been good since Mr. Hill's last visit. There has not indeed been any serious case of illness, and there has been no epidemic. The prisoners, even those committed for long periods, generally improve in health during their imprisonment, though after any one has been here about six months, he generally requires the addition of some milk or sugar to his diet, to keep him in health."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good, but, as mentioned in my last Report, it is probable that many offences escape observation.

It will be seen by my last Report that conduct of a very corrupting kind goes on among prisoners at the treadwheel.

No prisoner made any complaint.

The registers and accounts were in a proper state.

The average cost per head last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was about 83*l.*; which is 11*l.* above the general average of the English prisons, and 17*l.* above the average in Scotland.

The great expense per head is chiefly caused by the small number of prisoners; thus, though on an average there are only two female prisoners, it is necessary to have a matron for them.

It is much to be regretted that instead of building two prisons at Lincoln, one for the county, and another for the city, legal power was not obtained for using one prison for both. Not only might a large sum of money have been saved in building, but the annual cost of the prisoners, to both county and city, would have been much less. A considerable saving, however, under the latter head, might still be made by obtaining authority, even under present circumstances, to form a junction. Probably the best use to which the city prison could now be applied, would be to employ it as a prison for females only.

KIRTON LINDSEY.—COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[Inspected June 12, 1850.]

I was glad to find that more useful work is now done in the prison than was the case at my last visit, though it has not yet been carried nearly so far as I suggested; for notwithstanding some of the prisoners are employed in weaving, carding wool, breaking stones, knitting, and shoemaking, the greater portion of those sentenced to hard labour still work on the treadwheel (the power of which runs to waste), and the other prisoners, though sometimes employed, are generally idle.

The matron now instructs the female prisoners in writing; and a few other minor suggestions have been carried out; but the following recommendations have not been acted upon:—

1. An additional male warder to be engaged; and in selecting him, care to be taken to choose a man who understands some useful kind of employment that can be carried on by the prisoners.

2. The governor to be instructed to use his utmost efforts to have all the prisoners usefully and profitably occupied; and as soon as he has succeeded in doing so to a considerable extent, the treadwheel, the power of which is turned to no account, to be discontinued and removed, and the place which it occupies to be converted into a workshop.

3. The system of tasks to be introduced as far as practicable, and every prisoner under this system to be required in summer

(and in winter also, if artificial light should be introduced) to perform a daily task equal to 10 hours' fair labour; any prisoner who may not do the stated quantity of work being punished the following day by being put on a diet of bread and water.

4. No convicted prisoner to be required or permitted to wear any article whatever belonging to himself; and every untried prisoner to be allowed and encouraged to wear the prison dress, and to be required to do so if any part of his own clothing be unfit for use.

5. The governor and matron to have the power of increasing the allowance of bedding in cases where they may think it necessary.

6. The poor-law auditor of the district, or some other qualified person, to be engaged to see that the money accounts are kept on a good form, and to examine them periodically.

Though this latter recommendation has not been adopted, an account has been opened, showing by calculation the proper consumption of food.

Of the bad effects of treadwheel labour in this prison I spoke fully in my last Report.

The dietary lately recommended by the Secretary of State has been adopted.

The building seemed to be in tolerably good repair, but, as mentioned in the last Report, the airing-yards are not very secure; one of the rooms also, which is used as a workshop, is very insecure.

The average number of prisoners in the year ending last Michaelmas was 59, which is five less than the average in the previous year, though four more than the average in the last ten years.

On the day of my visit there were 67 prisoners, viz. 63 males and 4 females.

The chief exception to the observance of the rules is, that, as already stated, only occasional employment is found for convicted prisoners not sentenced to hard labour.

The prisoners continue to pass far too much time in bed.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"My routine of duties remains exactly the same as described in Mr. Hill's last Report. The prisoners generally make satisfactory progress in religious and secular knowledge. When at chapel, or otherwise under my care, the conduct of the prisoners has been very good. I think the present system of discipline here has a deterring effect on incipient offenders, but not on the confirmed criminal. I think also that in some cases it has a beneficial effect on their characters. Several cases have come to my knowledge during the last year of persons who were once in this prison for offences bespeaking habits of crime, but who are now living honestly and respectably."

The following are a few among many apparent cases of reformation in the chaplain's journal:—

"J. E., age 28, committed 28th of October for felony, and at the following sessions sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment. She was the daughter of a man of considerable substance, which, after his death, was spent in drunken extravagance. She was before convicted of felony in the county of ———. On her discharge she was sent to the union workhouse, being ineligible for a penitentiary. She afterwards went into service, and is now obtaining a respectable livelihood.

"C. S., age 25, committed for 12 months' imprisonment from Lincoln March Assizes for sheep-stealing. Since his discharge he is spoken highly of by the clergyman of his parish as an industrious labourer, and a regular, consistent character.

"W. H., companion of the above, and had a similar sentence. Has since his discharge been an industrious labourer, and is also spoken highly of by the clergyman of his parish as a regular attendant on Divine service.

"W. H., age 30, companion of the two preceding, and a similar sentence. On his discharge he left the neighbourhood of his former residence with his wife and family, and is now in a situation of considerable trust in a house rent-free, and a salary of 1*l.* 1*s.* a week.

"The prosecutor, on the discharge of these three prisoners, through my representation gave each of them a handsome bound Bible.

"G. M., age 24, sentenced at April sessions to 12 months' imprisonment for felony, is now obtaining an honest and respectable living by his business as a tailor.

"W. W., a butcher, age 29, tried July sessions, 1847, for felony, sentenced to four months' imprisonment. Expressed his thanks on discharge for the instruction he had received in the prison, and the religious knowledge he had obtained. Last heard of in a respectable situation.

"R. W., age 20, committed 18th of September on a charge of felony. Sentenced at the following Quarter Sessions to four months' imprisonment. On her discharge, through the kindness of the matron a situation was procured for her, in which she has done well.

"I. W., age 24, servant, committed 23rd of September on a charge of felony; sentenced the following Quarter Sessions to 12 calendar months' imprisonment. On his discharge he left the county; he then bought a Bible, a Prayer Book, and spelling-book, in order to improve himself. He has since written three times to the prison, giving an account of himself as doing well, and in a good situation.

"I. S., age 25, committed on the 8th of March, under sentence of 12 months, from Lincoln Assizes. Has been heard of from the constable of the parish as being quite a reformed character."

One of the warders acts as schoolmaster, and teaches the male prisoners to read and write. I examined all who had been any considerable time under his care, and found that on the whole they had made very satisfactory progress.

The prison was clean, as were the persons of the prisoners; but there was again a want of neatness in the rooms (though not to the same extent as at my last inspection), and the clothing of the prisoners was again in many cases out of repair, and slovenly. There was much excuse, however, for the officers in these and

other matters, in consequence of their duties being too heavy for them, owing to the want of more officers.

Again too I found many of the books unfit for use.

The bedding is sufficient in summer, but it will be seen by my last Report that the governor and matron do not think it enough in winter.

The food was of good quality, Its daily cost per head last year was about 4½*d.*, which is about the ordinary cost in other prisons.

The prisoners appeared to be in tolerably good health. The surgeon stated as follows:—

"Except five the prisoners are at present in very good health; and neither of the cases of exception is serious. The general health of the prisoners since Mr. Hill's last visit has been better than usual, and on the whole tolerably good. There has not been any epidemic in the prison since that time, and only one death."

There was a misprint in my last Report, by which it was made to appear that the surgeon stated that the male prisoners became weaker after imprisonment of six weeks; it should have been six *months*.

The governor stated that there had been much misconduct among some of the prisoners, especially the untried, this spring; and he added, that the crowded state of the wards and the want of more officers tended to produce misconduct.

The chief offences, he said, were quarrelling and making noises, and in several cases attempting to do wilful injury. He said also that the female prisoners gave a great deal of annoyance by attempting to communicate with the male prisoners.

In the day-rooms for untried prisoners I found 13 (all the untried except one) together, without an officer, and most of them unemployed. There was, no doubt, great difference of character and conduct among them, and much mutual corruption.

Some of the punishments, I observed, were for fighting, and one for stealing.

Some prisoners complained that, although they were at work at breaking stones, they had not the allowance of food granted by the rules to prisoners at hard labour. It appeared that the governor had not been in the habit of considering any work as hard labour, technically, except the treadwheel; but on my informing him that breaking stones was regarded as such in other prisons, and on my expressing to him my opinion that it came fairly under that designation, he gave orders for these prisoners to have the full allowance of food.

Two of the prisoners also complained that their hair had been cut so short as to mark them on leaving prison. With reference to this the governor stated that he had some time ago received an order from the Visiting Magistrates to cut the hair short; but as the practice appears to me to be objectionable and to be scarcely

authorized by the rules, I called the attention of the magistrates to the subject, in the hope that it will be discontinued.

A short time ago there was a man in this prison who, according to his statement, had been driven by the force of conscience to deliver himself into the hands of justice for a forgery committed two years before.

The chaplain's journal—

The registers were in a proper state.

The average cost per prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was 19*l.* 10*s.*, which is 2*l.* 10*s.* below the general average in England; but in so far as this difference is produced by having an insufficient number of officers for the maintenance of good discipline, it does not reflect credit on the prison.

Much relief would be afforded by the withdrawal of the female prisoners, and these I recommended should be all sent to Lincoln.

RUTLANDSHIRE.

OAKHAM.—COUNTY PRISON.

[Inspected June 4, 1850.]

In compliance with some of the recommendations contained in my last Report (dated August, 1849), the chaplain now sees every prisoner, periodically, in private; the prisoners wash their feet at least once a week, and go into the bath at stated times; the floor of the solitary cell has been boarded; and the account of the consumption of food is audited periodically. But the following recommendations have not been adopted:—

1. Such rooms in the prison as are suitable for the purpose, to be prepared for being certified as fit for the separate confinement of prisoners, with a view to their being so used when not required for a class of prisoners.

2. The selection of prisoners for separate confinement to be made according to the rules recommended at page 30 of my 13th Annual Report.

3. Gas to be brought into the prison, and the prisoners to be required to rise, both in winter and summer, not later than at six in the morning, and not to be allowed to go to bed before eight in the evening.

4. Every prisoner to be required to perform throughout the year a daily task equal to ten hours' fair labour.

5. Mat-making and other useful kinds of employment to be introduced; and with this view the governor to visit the prisons at Wakefield and Leeds, and, if a good opportunity should arise, the prison at Haddington (which, like that at Oakham, is in an agricultural district), and the prisons at Edinburgh, Stirling, and Glasgow.

6. A person to be appointed to attend the prison an hour every evening in summer, and two hours in winter, to teach the male prisoners reading and writing.

7. The chaplain to be requested to record, at least once a quarter (after an examination made for that purpose), the progress which the prisoners have made in elementary instruction. The record to be made in the form furnished by me to the chaplain at the county prison at Lincoln.

8. A small library to be formed, and the rules suggested in my 13th Report, page xiv., for the preservation of the Bibles and library books, to be adopted. In the selection of the books for the library, reference to be made to the lists contained in my 8th and 13th Reports.

9. The allotted quantity of bread to be given with each meal, instead of the whole allowance for the day being given at one meal, as at present.

10. The prison dress to be made complete by the addition of cap, braces, and, where necessary, of flannels. No convicted prisoner to be required or permitted to wear any article whatever belonging to himself; and every untried prisoner who desires it, or whose clothes are not fit for use, or are required for identification at trial, to have the prison dress.

In relation to the first two of the foregoing recommendations, I give the following extract from the chaplain's last annual Report but one:—

"I regret the want of facilities for separating those prisoners on whom there seems a probability of making an impression for good, from those who are more hardened. It cannot but be highly desirable that those who are more open to instruction should be kept as much as possible from all contaminating influences, as well as the equally dangerous snares of the incessant sneers of scoffers, and this of course applies more particularly to young prisoners. In all probability they have been urged on to the commission of their offences by some older than themselves, or their offences are of a minor character, and they are brought to prison with *comparatively* unpolluted hearts, and at an age that renders them susceptible of instruction for either good or bad. It is miserable to think of such being compelled to spend their whole time in the company of reckless and abandoned characters, and I own that I have seldom turned from my visits to such, without a painful and oppressive thought that those whom I had been catechising or otherwise instructing were, as soon as I was gone, most probably to be exposed to a series of counteracting influences.

"It can scarcely be a matter of surprise if under such circumstances they are gradually drawn over to a similar tone of feeling, and those who were brought to prison to atone for the violated laws of their country, leave it not only unreformed, but more depraved in mind, and more heedless about offending again. I have not indeed found that such has been the case, but to obviate, if practicable, the danger of such results, I have been anxious to bring the matter forward, and I beg very earnestly to submit it to the consideration of the magistrates."

The iron palisade, which was erecting at the time of my last visit, has made the prison more secure than it was.

The new dietary recommended by the Secretary of State has been adopted.

The building appeared to be in a good state of repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 16, which is 5 less than in the previous year, though about equal to the average in the last five years. On the day of the inspection there were 9 prisoners, all males.

The chief exception to the observance of the rules (including the rules laid down in Acts of Parliament) are, that the surgeon does not see every prisoner on admission, or subsequently twice a week, and that no regular provision is made for the instruction of the prisoners in reading and writing. There are, however, some old rules, which are still enforced, though they are not included in the rules approved of by the Secretary of State. One of these rules is as follows :—

"All male prisoners committed for trial, who cannot maintain themselves, and who will not work, shall be allowed each one pound and a half of bread daily, but no meat or potatoes."

I am of opinion, as I have before had occasion to state, that it is reasonable, and would be beneficial to the parties themselves, to require that all prisoners, whether tried or untried, should be required to work: but as the foregoing rule has not been submitted for the approval of the Secretary of State, it does not appear to me to be legal. It is at the same time proper to add, that all that appears to have been required under it is, that the untried prisoners should pump the comparatively small quantity of water required in this prison, which the governor said they can generally do in an hour each day.

The work department continues in the unsatisfactory state described in the last Report, many of the prisoners being idle during the greater part of their time, and the labour of the others being wasted, the treadwheel which they turn being applied to no purpose. It will indeed be seen by the chaplain's evidence that he is of opinion that the treadwheel has a powerful effect in deterring persons from the commission of crime, but a reference to the actual number of recommitments showed that the proportion of recommitments has been much larger since the treadwheel came into use than it was before; though this positive increase is probably owing to other circumstances.

The chaplain, in explanation, stated that the number of recommitments which he spoke of in his Report was the absolute and not the comparative number, and that it did not include persons whose previous commitment had been before the time of the treadwheel. With regard, however, to this latter number, it appeared on investigation, that the great majority of the prisoners

who were recommitted in the last two years had previously been in the prison since the treadwheel came into use, and had been compelled to work on the wheel.

The prisoners continue to pass far too much time in bed.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"The routine of my duties continues to be nearly the same as described in Mr. Hill's last Report. The prisoners make satisfactory progress in religious knowledge, but there is no provision for teaching them reading and writing. The prisoners, when at chapel or otherwise under my charge, are always exceedingly well behaved. I think that the present system of discipline, especially the treadwheel labour, acts powerfully in deterring people from the commission of crime, but I have a difficulty in saying whether it tends to improve the characters of the prisoners. I have not many opportunities of tracing prisoners after their liberation, and preserving an influence over them; but in some I have done so, and with good effect. I may in particular mention that of a girl who was in prison some time ago for theft, and who is now living honestly and respectably."

The following is taken from the chaplain's last annual report, but, as already remarked, the number of recommitments during the period referred to, instead of being smaller than usual, is much larger:—

"Observations and intercourse with the prisoners for nearly two years enable me to speak to the effects of the treadwheel, on which, as then of recent introduction, my predecessor forbore to make any remarks. It is worthy of notice, that during the period above mentioned the number of recommittals has been exceedingly small; this by itself would prove something, and I have found from conversation which I have had with several of the prisoners during their incarceration, that it is in a great degree to be attributed to labour on the wheel. Many especially of the large number that crowded the prison in the beginning of the year, expressed themselves unsolicited to this effect, some declaring that should they be out of employment another winter, sooner than commit anything that would bring them back to gaol they would go to the Union."

The prison was very clean, as were the persons of the prisoners.

The bedding is sufficient, but few even of the convicted prisoners are supplied with prison clothing.

The food was of good quality. Its daily cost last year was 5¼*d.*, which is considerably above the general cost in other prisons. The surgeon said that he considered the dietary sufficient in all cases, and not more than sufficient to maintain health and strength; but the governor stated as follows:—

"I consider the allowance of food to the untried, who do very little work, is quite too much, and to be more and of better quality than the generality of these prisoners would get if they were at large and at work. They have meat every day, whereas many honest and hard-working people in this district do not get meat more than once a week. Many of the untried become so lazy before trial, as almost to be unfit

for work after trial. About five years and a half ago (but since the dietary recommended by Sir James Graham came into use, which gives the same allowance of food for the untried as the present dietary) I wrote or spoke to about twenty governors of other prisons, to learn the result of their observation on this subject, and I found that the majority agreed with me in the opinion I have just expressed."

The prisoners had a healthy appearance, and the surgeon stated as follows :—

"The prisoners are all in good health, and their general health has been good since Mr. Hill's last inspection. There has not been any epidemic in the prison since that time. There is not any disease to which the prisoners are more liable than persons in the same class of life out of prison. The prisoners, whether committed for short or long periods, generally improve in health during their imprisonment."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good, but, as observed in the last Report, owing to the want of the means of either separating the prisoners or of keeping up a constant supervision over them, it is probable that many offences escape notice. The offences for which punishment is awarded are, for the most part, talking when on the treadwheel, and making disturbances at other times; but I observed one case of punishment in the year (that of a female) in which the offence was "using disgusting language to her fellow-prisoners," and another in which the offence was stealing.

The ordinary punishment is confinement in the solitary cell.

In some cases entries of punishments had been omitted; quite unintentionally, however, I believe.

No prisoner made any complaint.

With the exception already mentioned, the registers and accounts appeared to be in a proper state.

The net average cost per prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was 43*l.*, which, though less by 4*l.* than the average cost per head at this prison during the last five years, is nearly double the general average in English prisons.

This great expense arises chiefly from the small number of prisoners among whom the salaries of the officers have to be divided.

Considering the bad construction of the building, and (as it appears to me) the bad system under which he is required to act, the result of the inspection was creditable to Mr. Farage, the governor, and to the other officers.

I am sorry that the magistrates did not adopt the principal suggestions for the improvement of the prison, which I made at my last visit, since, by means of the measures thus recommended, it would have been put in the power of the zealous and intelligent governor to separate the bad prisoners from the good, to enforce early rising at all seasons of the year, and to provide useful employment for all.

While however a great improvement might have been thus effected, at very little expense—an improvement which is of course still open to the magistrates to carry out—I am of opinion that a still better course would be to obtain legal authority to contract with one of the neighbouring counties, for the care and maintenance of the prisoners, and then to close this prison altogether.

Even including a charge of 6*l.* per annum per prisoner for rent, the cost of each of the prisoners to the county to which they would be removed (considering that the cost of salaries in a prison is scarcely affected by a small addition to the number of prisoners) would not be more than about 15*l.*; so that, after allowing for the expense of conveyance, there would be a saving of at least 25*l.* per head (on the average number of prisoners), besides the saving in repairs and alterations in the building (which during the last five years have amounted to upwards of 1400*l.*), by sending the prisoners either to Leicester or Peterborough. This sum multiplied by 15, the average number of prisoners during the last five years, would give a total annual saving of 375*l.*, to be divided between Rutlandshire and the county to which it might send its prisoners.

And not only would there be this pecuniary benefit, but what is more important, better discipline would be obtained than is possible in the prison at Oakham, without large and expensive alterations in the building.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

CAMBRIDGE.—COUNTY PRISON.

[The Inspection began 27th June 1850.]

I was glad to find that most of the suggestions and recommendations contained in my last Report (dated November 1849), had either been carried into effect, or were in process of being so. A contract has been entered into with the Town Council for sending all the female prisoners to the borough prison, and this change was completed during the period of my inspection: two additional officers have been appointed, and a third is about to be chosen to enable the governor to maintain constant supervision over the prisoners; additional kinds of work are about to be introduced; the food is now cooked by prisoners; no prisoner is exempted from any part of his work to admit of his going to school, unless he really attends the school, and conducts himself well there; a small library has been procured; a slight alteration has been made in the chapel so as to enable the chaplain to see all the prisoners; all untried prisoners are now allowed to wear the prison clothing; there is now an inventory of the prison property; steps are taking for making the airing-yards dry in winter; and the ventilation of the water-closets has been improved.

The recommendation, however, to have some of the cells and day-rooms prepared for being certified as fit for the separate confinement of prisoners; to introduce gas into the prison, so as to admit of early rising throughout the year; and to provide some cloaks for the use, in cold weather, of prisoners resting from the tread-mill, have not been adopted.

The building seemed to be in good repair.

At the time of the inspection there were 92 prisoners.

The average number of prisoners last year was 97, which is 9 more than the average in the previous year, and 33 more than the average in the last 10 years. The increase, as compared with last year, was chiefly owing to there having been more transports in the prison than in the previous year.

The governor attributed much of the sudden increase of prisoners in the last two years to the general stoppage of railway work.

The following appeared to be the chief exceptions to the observance of the rules:—

1. The rules have not been always read to prisoners who were unable to read themselves.

2. Useful employment is not yet provided for all, or even for many of the prisoners.

3. The minute medical inquiry directed to be made once a month does not take place.

4. Owing in part to the want of a more convenient bath-room, the rule respecting bathing has not been fully observed.

5. The chaplain is not in the habit of seeing the prisoners periodically in private.

Artificial light not being provided, the prisoners continue to pass far too much time in bed.

The chaplain stated that the routine of his duties remained the same as they are described in my last Report.

The chaplain suggested that the prisoners should in summer (when artificial heat is not required) go to their night-cells for a short time after morning and afternoon service on Sunday, in order that any religious impression that might be produced, should not be effaced by immediate association with each other.

The instruction given by the schoolmaster is confined for the most part to reading; few of the prisoners being taught writing, and none arithmetic.

Though the instruction is thus limited, I was sorry to find that the general progress of the prisoners was again unsatisfactory.

The prison was clean as were the persons of the prisoners; but I here must again remark on the want of greater neatness, especially in the debtors' day-room.

The clothing and bedding were sufficient.

The irregularities respecting the food mentioned in the last Report have been stopped; and I this time received no complaint on

the subject. I tasted the food, and found it of very good quality, and correctly weighed.

It was the more satisfactory to find the improvement in this department, and the absence of complaint, because the cooking and weighing out the food are now all done by prisoners instead of by officers, at a saving of about 40*l.* a-year in wages.

The prisoners had generally a healthy appearance, and the surgeon stated as follows:—

"All the prisoners are at present in good health, and their general health has been very good since Mr. Hill's inspection last November. There has not been any epidemic since that time. I do not know any thing in the prison tending to cause illness."

The conduct of most of the prisoners was reported to have been good; but as constant supervision has not yet been provided (though measures are taking with that object) it is probable that many offences have escaped detection.

The offences are of the same character as those described in my last Report. They consist chiefly, the governor stated, of "refusing to obey orders, wilfully destroying county property, quarrelling, making use of improper language, pilfering, and irreverent behaviour in chapel."

A few prisoners made complaints, but none of the complaints proved to be well-founded.

The system of accounts remains the same. The accounts and registers were all brought up to the present time.

The average cost per prisoner last year was given in my last Report. It amounted to about 22*l.*, which is the general average in England.

I am glad to be able to bear testimony to a considerable improvement in this prison, although it will have been seen that much remains to be accomplished.

I recommended that the debtors should not be allowed to smoke, or to have access, during the daytime, to their night-cells.

CAMBRIDGE.—BOROUGH PRISON.

[Inspected 29th June 1850.]

In accordance with some of my suggestions at my visit last November, one of the day-rooms and one of the sleeping-rooms have been enlarged, and means provided, as respects the day-room, for easy inspection; the employment of the prisoners in useful labour has been extended by the addition of tailor's work, and the occupation of the prisoners in painting, whitewashing, and making alterations in the building; and, as mentioned in the Report on the County Prison, an arrangement has been made for receiving the female prisoners of both prisons here.

The building seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 44, which is 8 more than the average in the previous year, and 14 more than the average in the last 10 years.

The increase has been chiefly among prisoners committed under the Vagrant Act, and for assaults and petty thefts.

The governor attributed the increase in the number of prisoners chiefly to the increase in population, and to the circumstance of more offences being brought to light now than formerly. He stated, however, that many persons were reckless about committing offences, because they preferred being sent to the prison to going to the workhouse, chiefly because, according to their statements, they got better food at the prison.

About three-quarters of the prisoners belong to Cambridge, the remainder being strangers. The proportion of strangers, the governor said, had increased of late years.

The following appeared to be the chief exceptions to the observance of the rules:—

1. Some of the convicted prisoners still wear part of their own clothing; and untried prisoners are still not allowed to wear the prison clothing unless their own be unfit for use.

2. Although there is more useful employment than formerly, it is not yet provided for all the prisoners.

3. There is not an inventory of the prison furniture.

4. There is still no provision for teaching the prisoners to read and write, beyond a little occasional instruction given by the governor.

5. The chaplain is not in the habit of seeing the prisoners at stated times in private, or of assembling them in classes for religious instruction.

Artificial light not being yet provided, the prisoners continue to pass far too much time in bed.

The chaplain stated that his routine of duty remained the same as that described in my last Report.

The prison and the persons of the prisoners were clean.

The bedding was sufficient, but it will be seen from what has been stated above, that the clothing is not so.

The food was of good quality. Its cost last year, as stated in my last Report, was about 5*d.* per day, per head.

The prisoners appeared to be in good health. The surgeon stated as follows:—

"Except one prisoner, who was not in good health on admission, and whose case is not serious, the prisoners are at present in remarkably good health, and their general health has been very good since Mr. Hill's last inspection. There has not been any epidemic since that time. Prisoners belonging to the farming district have generally the germs of scrofula about them; but the scrofula does not become more developed in the prison than it would probably be if they were out. There is no other disease to which the prisoners are more liable than people in the

same class of life out of prison. Upon the whole, I think the prisoners improve in health during their imprisonment."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good; but, owing to the want of constant supervision, it is probable that many offences at present escape observation.

One prisoner complained of being debarred the use of tobacco; but this was the only complaint of any kind.

The governor mentioned two cases of recent occurrence, in which confinement in this prison appeared to have had a very beneficial effect on the conduct of the parties.

None of the registers or accounts were in arrears; but the system of accounts remains the same, and does not appear to me to afford a sufficient check on the disbursements.

I made the following recommendations:—

1. The cells in one of the wings to be prepared for the separate confinement of prisoners; with a view, if the result be satisfactory of extending the arrangement to the other parts of the prison.

2. The prison to be lighted with gas; and the prisoners to be required to rise not later than at six all the year round, and not to be allowed to go to bed before nine at night.

3. As far as practicable every prisoner to be required to perform a daily task of 10 hours' labour.

4. Another male officer to be appointed to act as schoolmaster, and to assist generally; and a second female officer to be engaged.

5. An auditor to be appointed.

CAMBRIDGE.—BOROUGH POLICE STATION.

[Inspected 28th June 1850.]

There has not been any alteration in this lock-up house since my Report upon it last October.

The intended arrangement for superseding this lock-up house, by converting part of the spinning-house into a lock-up house, has not yet been completed.

In the year ending last month there were 590 prisoners, which is 47 more than in the previous year.

At the time of my visit there was only one prisoner.

This place was clean and neat.

CAMBRIDGE.—SPINNING-HOUSE PRISON.

[Inspected 26th June 1850.]

There did not appear to have been any change since my Report last November; none of the recommendations contained therein having been carried into effect.

These recommendations were intended not as measures of re-

form, but merely as palliations, until a greater change is made; for, as stated in my last Report, I think it very desirable that this prison should be altogether discontinued, and the inmates sent to the Borough Prison.

As already mentioned, this prison is used only in Term time; and as my visit this time was out of Term, I found it empty.

The part lately occupied was tolerably clean, but one of the rooms was not neat.

There was an offensive smell from the water-closets, which the matron said was generally the case when the wind was in a certain quarter.

It was stated that there had not been any serious case of illness or remarkable occurrence of any kind since my last inspection.

ELY.—COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[Inspected 3rd July 1850.]

In accordance with some of the recommendations contained in my Report last November, no female prisoners are now received here; all of them being sent to Wisbech. An addition has been made to the prison library, and the food and other stores are now supplied as far as possible by public contract. But the following recommendations have not been acted upon:—

1. Such kinds of work to be introduced as can be carried on in the separate cells, such as mat-making, basket-making, the making of bee-hives, knitting, &c.; and when a sufficient supply of such work has been obtained, the tread-wheel to be discontinued.

2. The prisoners when taking exercise, to be under constant superintendence, and to walk at a certain distance apart, so as to prevent communication. No prisoner to be employed in the hall or galleries in cleaning or otherwise, unless an officer be present.

3. A gaslight to be put in each cell, and the prisoners to be required to rise not later than at six all the year round, and not to be permitted to go to bed before nine at night.

4. Every convicted prisoner to be required to perform a daily task throughout the year equal to ten hours' fair labour.

5. The prison dress to be made complete by the addition of braces and pocket-handkerchiefs; and no convicted prisoner to be permitted to retain any article whatever belonging to himself.

6. Some more copies of the prison rules to be provided, and every officer, including the chaplain and surgeon, to be furnished with a copy.

7. The governor to be instructed to keep a stock book of clothing, bedding, &c., and this book, together with the provision book, to be fully and regularly audited.

8. The clerk to the magistrates to be requested to inspect the prison from time to time, in addition to the inspections of the

Visiting Justices, and to record the result of his inspections for the information of the Justices.

The building seemed to be in tolerable repair.

There has been an escape since the last inspection, but the prisoner was retaken. He made his escape from the airing-yard, being assisted, instead of impeded, the governor thought, by the *chevaux-de-frise*.

The average number of prisoners last year was 26, which is 7 less than the average in the previous year.

Artificial light not being supplied, the prisoners continue to pass far too much time in bed.

The chaplain stated that his routine of duties continued the same as described in my last Report. He stated also that he did not think that the present system of discipline in this prison was at all calculated to deter people from the commission of crime, or to improve the character of the prisoners. He added that there were at that time several notorious thieves in the prison, who must be doing great injury to the other prisoners with whom they were allowed to associate.

The prison was clean, as were the persons of the prisoners.

Some of the clothing was out of repair.

The new dietary has been adopted.

The food was of good quality, but the surgeon thinks it too much in quantity. Its average daily cost last year was about 5*d.* a-head, which is above the general average in other prisons.

The prisoners seemed to be in tolerable good health; but the surgeon stated that, since the last inspection, many of them had been slightly ill from cold, rheumatism, and slight fever; though there had been no death, and no removal or liberation on account of illness.

One prisoner appeared to be very lame, in consequence of an injury to his foot received on the treadwheel. The following is the governor's entry in his journal respecting this case:—

"15*th May* 1850.—10¾ A.M. I heard a noise in the corridor, and on going there I found the turnkeys had just brought prisoner, J. S., from the treadwheel; it appeared on inquiry that the prisoner was treading improperly at the time, which no doubt caused the accident; his foot is very much hurt. I gave immediate notice to the medical officer of the above accident, and on going into the treadwheel-yard to make further inquiry, and caution the other prisoners, G. B. became saucy. I ordered that he be confined in the refractory cell three days, on bread and water.

"Subsequently the prisoner, J. S., admitted that he was treading the wheel improperly, viz., sideways, at the time of the accident."

There was a lunatic in the prison, but I understood he was about to be removed.

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been very good; but owing to their being neither in separation nor under constant supervision, it is probable that at present many

offences escape detection. Where such offences are committed, as those mentioned in my last Report, there must be many minor transgressions.

No prisoner made any complaint.

The governor mentioned a case of a prisoner who was liberated about a year ago, and who he believed is now getting an honest living, although formerly he was of very loose character and an associate of prostitutes. The following is another case which the governor mentioned:—

"A prisoner named G. F., convicted in October last year of robbing his master (a druggist), and sentenced to two calendar months' imprisonment, was, on his discharge, taken into the employ of the person to whom he was apprenticed. I have seen him in Ely since: at that time he was on his way to London, where his master had procured him a better situation.

"This prisoner was kept entirely by himself (by order of the Court when tried) during the whole of his imprisonment, and I have no doubt it was much to his benefit. I wish it was generally adopted with all classes of prisoners here."

The governor not being at the prison at the time of my visit (having gone to Wisbech, where I afterwards saw him, to attend the Quarter Sessions) I did not see the registers.

The net average cost per prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was 24*l.* 10*s.*, which is about 2*l.* above the general average in other English prisons.

I agree with the chaplain in thinking that under the present arrangements confinement in this prison can have little effect in deterring people from committing crime; and I fear that, as a general rule, the inmates instead of being improved by their imprisonment must be made worse.*

ELY.—COUNTY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected 16th July 1850.]

In accordance with one of the recommendations contained in my Report in November last, provision has been made for the prisoners to wash themselves; but the recommendation that they should be compelled to do so before being allowed any food has not been acted upon.

The place was clean; but the water-closets were in an offensive state, owing I suspect to bad workmanship, as the county, I was informed, had expended a good deal of money upon them.

The number of prisoners last year was 157, of whom 13 were females. This number is 13 less than the number in the previous year.

At the time of my visit the cells were empty.

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* I am happy to state that since this was written much has been done towards carrying into effect the recommendations in my last Report, and that contamination and idleness are now put an end to.—March, 1851.

WISBECH.—COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[Inspected 4th July 1850.]

I was glad to find that many of the recommendations contained in my last Report (dated November 1849) had been carried into effect. In accordance with them, such of the cells as had not been fitted up for the separate confinement of prisoners have now been so fitted up, and the separate system has been extended to many of the female prisoners; sack-making and other useful kinds of work have been introduced to some extent, and the governor expects in a short time to be able to carry this work much further; the prisoners now cook for the prison and repair the clothes; all the female prisoners in the Isle are received here instead of some being sent to the prison at Ely; an assistant matron has been appointed; the room hitherto used as a kitchen for the governor is now used as the prison kitchen, and the former prison kitchen is occupied as a wash-house; the stone slabs in one of the airing yards have been relaid, so as to form a dry path all round; a provision has been made for warming the reception cells; the food and other stores are, as far as practicable, supplied by public contract, and a complete stock-book is now kept.

The following recommendations, however, have not yet been carried into operation:—

1. The chaplain to be requested to see every prisoner in private at least once each week, and to keep a character-book.

2. The cells to be lighted with gas, and the prisoners to be required to rise not later than at six all the year round, and not to go to bed before nine at night.

3. Every prisoner to be required to perform a daily task throughout the year equal to 10 hours' fair labour.

4. The prison dress to be made complete by the addition of braces and pocket handkerchiefs, and no convicted prisoner to be allowed to wear any article whatever belonging to himself.

5. Slips, which can be readily washed, to be provided for the mattresses.

The building seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 36, which is six less than the average in the previous year, but four more than the average of the last five years.

The governor attributed the increase of late principally to the public works now going on in the county, which he said drew a large number of strangers there; and this opinion is supported by the fact that the chief part of the prisoners are strangers.

The following appeared to be the chief exceptions to the observance of the rules:—

1. There is still but little useful work in the prison, although, as already stated, the governor expects soon to increase the amount greatly.

2. The chaplain is not in the habit of assembling the prisoners in classes for religious instruction, or of seeing them periodically in private. He does not, moreover, keep a character-book.

Artificial light not being yet provided, the prisoners continue, in winter, to pass far too much time in bed.

The chaplain's routine of duty remains the same as described in my last Report. He said, that he found that by a simple, plain, and affectionate manner, he got a great hold on the prisoners. He added, that he considered the system of discipline in this prison eminently calculated to deter people from the commission of crime, and calculated also to improve their characters.

I examined some of the prisoners in reading and writing, &c., and found that their general progress was tolerably satisfactory.

The prison was very clean, and the prisoners were clean in their persons.

The bedding was sufficient (except that there were no slips for mattresses), but the stock of clothing was insufficient.

The new dietary recommended by the Secretary of State has been adopted.

The food was of good quality.

The generality of the prisoners had the appearance of being in tolerably good health. The surgeon stated as follows:—

"The prisoners are at present in tolerably good health, and their general health has been very good since Mr. Hill's last inspection. There are only two prisoners who are at this time too unwell to labour, and neither case is serious. Both were ill on admission. Ague has lately prevailed in the prison, but not more so than in the neighbourhood. It is the remark of medical men generally in this district that there has been more ague in it of late than for the last 20 years."

The surgeon again mentioned the want of better ventilation in the cells as tending to produce illness, and my own observation went to confirm the truth of the statement.

One of the magistrates stated that on one occasion, when the fever was in the prison, the only effectual means of getting rid of it was found to be to break some of the windows and let in the fresh air.

The conduct of the prisoners was reported to have improved since the separate system was introduced, and to be now generally good. The governor said there had been no such offences of late as assaults on officers or abusive language. I was sorry, however, to find two boys chained to the wall, because they had attempted to escape. A prison ought to be so secure as to make such precautions unnecessary.

The number of punishments last year was 127.

No prisoner made any complaint.

The following are extracts from the governor's journal:—

"14*th December* 1849.—The mother-in-law of discharged prisoner, R. B., called to-day to tell me her fears as to B.'s thorough reformation

have entirely ceased; that he continues to devote himself entirely to his occupation, and the welfare of his family; that he maintains, strictly, abstinence from drinking, and that she thinks he is now truly happy in his home.

"28*th March* 1850.—Having fortunately succeeded in getting a situation for S. B, at Captain Hampton's, at March, this prisoner, B., having been tried at our last sessions for two acts of felony, and convicted of one of them, I am happy to say that she is highly spoken of by her master and mistress, conducting herself entirely to their satisfaction, and has their fullest confidence.

"22*nd April* 1850.—J. T., committed to our general quarter sessions held the 10th instant, at Ely, having, after his discharge by the Court, informed me he was destitute of the means of reaching home, a distance of about 25 miles, I lent him 2*s*., which I have the satisfaction to say he repaid me this day. The money was returned all in *pence*.

The registers and accounts were in a proper state, and there is now a proper audit of the food account.

The average cost per head last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was, as mentioned in my last Report, 22*l*. 13*s*., which is about the general average in other prisons.

I addressed the following letter to the visiting justices:—

GENTLEMEN, *Norwich*, 13*th July* 1850.

AT an inspection of the House of Correction at Wisbech which I made a few days ago, I was gratified at finding that many of the recommendations which I made at my last visit had been carried into effect.

The adoption of the suggestions to have the prison lighted with gas, and to require the prisoners to rise at an early hour all the year round, and to perform a full day's work in winter as well as in summer, had, I was informed, been delayed till the governor was able to procure a full supply of work for the prisoners. And as he told me that he had a prospect of soon doing so, I hope that at my next visit I shall see this important improvement also in operation.

In order to improve the ventilation of the cells, I would suggest that the windows be made to open, with a view of half of the windows, taken alternately, being open during one-half of the day, and of the other half being open the rest of the day.

By having the alternate windows only open, the benefit of fresh air will be obtained without any danger, I think, of the prisoners communicating.

The ventilation of the chapel, also, is defective; but the governor has proposed a simple and inexpensive means of improving it.

In several prisons it is now an established practice for every officer to have at least one week's unbroken holiday in the year, a longer period being allowed to the governor, whose duties and responsibilities being greater than those of the ordinary officers is more in need of rest. This practice, which, while it gives relief and renewed vigour to the officers, is also, in my opinion, beneficial to the prison, by enabling the officers to discharge their duties with greater alacrity, I would recommend for adoption in the prison at Wisbech.

I have, &c.

Since the foregoing Report was written I have received a letter from the governor, from which the following are extracts :—

"*Wisbech Gaol*, 19*th Sept.* 1850.

"Sir,—During your last inspection you instructed me, in reference to the cases of reformation in the prison, to report to you the result of the case of a then recently discharged prisoner, named *E. N., alias A.* I therefore beg to inclose a letter I have received from the gentleman who humanely gave him employment upon his discharge.

"Upon N. leaving the prison I accompanied him to the factory in which he is employed; I provided him, for he was actually not fit to appear in the streets, with clothes, and I *lent* him a few shillings, and for about a fortnight he came to my house for food. The result, thank God, has been, the saving of this man from further crime and consequent transportation, and from a condition the most wretched of any prisoner I ever had in custody. He has repaid the money to me, he comes to see me, and is now respectable and respected. I am happy to say I have also obtained situations for two other convicted elons."

The letter referred to is highly creditable to the party in question.

WISBECH.—BOROUGH LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected 5th July 1850.]

It was stated that there had not been any alteration since this lock-up house was last examined by an Inspector of Prisons.

The place was clean.

The number of prisoners last year was 674, of whom 134 were females. At the time of my visit, however, there were no prisoners.

I addressed the following letter to the mayor :—

Sir, *Norwich*, 13*th July* 1850.

I beg to call the attention of yourself and the Town Council to the desirableness of providing some cells, at the police station, for female prisoners, farther removed than their present cells from those occupied by male prisoners, and also to the propriety of providing accommodation for one of the police officers and his wife to live on the spot, with a view of the female prisoners being under the sole charge of a female officer.

I have, &c.

NORFOLK.

KING'S LYNN.—BOROUGH PRISON.

[Inspected 5th July 1850.]

In my Report in September last, I recommended that as soon as practicable a contract be entered into with the county justices for the care and maintenance of the prisoners, with a view to this prison being discontinued, and I made some minor recommendations for the improvement of the prison in the meantime. The

recommendation for the discontinuance of the prison has not been acted upon, but in accordance with some of the other recommendations, the passages and principal rooms are now lighted by gas; the prisoners now do the whitewashing, painting, and such other work as they can perform; a provision has been made for teaching the prisoners to read and write; the unconvicted prisoners are allowed to wear the prison clothing; every prisoner goes into a tepid bath on admission (though afterwards not once a month), and is required to wash his feet once a-week. But the recommendations to require prisoners to rise all the year round not later than at six, to introduce oakum-picking or some other simple kind of work, to require every prisoner to do a daily task of 10 hours' labour, to have every prisoner seen by the chaplain in private on his admission, and once a fortnight at least during his confinement, and to make the prison dress complete, have not been carried into effect, though the keeper said that he had obtained a promise of employment for the prisoners in picking oakum, and that the work would begin in a few days.

The new dietary recommended by the Secretary of State has been adopted.

There did not appear to have been any other alterations of importance.

The prison seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 11, which is about the same as in the preceding year, and about 2 less than the average of the last 10 years.

On the day of my visit there were 14 prisoners.

The following were the chief exceptions to the observance of the rules:—

1. The supply of work, though increased, is still insufficient, even those sentenced to hard labour not being nearly fully employed. Though my visit was between two and three in the afternoon, such of the prisoners as had been at work (cleaning the prison) had finished, and all the rest were idle.

2. There is but little classification of the prisoners.

The chaplain's routine of duty remains the same as described in my last Report.

The prison was very clean, and the prisoners were clean in their persons.

The bedding was sufficient, but, as already mentioned, the prison clothing is still incomplete.

The food was of a good quality. Its daily average cost last year was nearly 6*d.* per head, which is considerably above the general average in other prisons.

The prisoners appeared to be in good health. The surgeon stated as follows:—

"Except one prisoner who came in in bad health, owing to dissipation, all the prisoners are in good health, and they have been generally

in remarkably good health since Mr. Hill's last inspection. I think it due to the keeper and matron to state that the prison is kept remarkably clean, and that great care is taken to prevent dampness. This, I have no doubt, has a very beneficial effect on the health of the prisoners."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good; but as mentioned in my last Report, owing to the prisoners being associated, and not under constant superintendence, many offences probably escape notice.

One prisoner complained that he had not food enough, but his complaint appeared to be groundless. No other prisoner made any complaint.

The registers were in a proper state, but the system of accounts remains the same.

The net average cost per prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was about 33*l.* per head, which is greater by one-half than the general average in other prisons. The chief expense is the salaries of the officers, which in small prisons is always high in proportion to the number of prisoners.

The records of the inspections by the magistrates were frequent, and were creditable to the keeper and matron.

A considerable improvement has been made in this prison since my last inspection; but owing to the association of the prisoners (which in a building constructed as this is, it would be very difficult to prevent,) and to the want of employment, I fear that in most cases the prisoners must still leave in a worse state than they entered.

SWAFFHAM.—COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[The inspection began 5th July 1850.]

In accordance with some of the recommendations contained in my Report last September, three of the officers have been dismissed and replaced by others; useful labour has been somewhat extended, though not as yet in any considerable degree; the prison dress has been made complete, and no convicted prisoner is allowed to wear any article belonging to himself; every prisoner goes into a tepid bath on admission, and afterwards once a month; and an additional set of sheets has been procured, so as to admit of the sheets being washed conveniently; but the following recommendations have not been adopted:—

1. The cells to be warmed and to be lighted with gas, and the prisoners to be required to rise not later than six o'clock all the year round.

2. A larger room to be appropriated as the school-room.

3. Every untried prisoner to be allowed to wear the prison dress.

4. The clerk to the visiting justices to be requested to inspect

the prison from time to time, and to record the result of his observations for the information of the justices.

There did not appear to have been any other alteration than those that have been mentioned.

The building seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 83, which is 18 above the average in the previous year, and 32 above the average of the last 10 years.

At the time of the inspection there were 105 prisoners, which is nearly double the number of cells; so that most of the prisoners, both by day and by night, were associated in small numbers, too small to admit of supervision, but quite large enough to allow of contamination.

I was glad to find that the rules had been better observed since my last inspection than previously. The following are now the chief exceptions:—

1. There is still but little useful employment for the prisoners, most of them being, as heretofore, either idle or at work on the treadwheel, the power of which is turned to no profit.

2. There is not an inventory of the furniture and other moveable property belonging to the prison.

3. No monthly medical examination, as distinguished from the ordinary medical examinations, is made.

4. There are not any cells adapted for solitary confinement, and cells have been used to a considerable extent for separate confinement, which have not been certified as fit for that purpose.

Artificial light not being provided, the prisoners continue to pass far too much time in bed.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"I read prayers to the prisoners daily, and on Sunday perform full service twice. I also see every prisoner in private, on his admission and departure, and in the intervening period from time to time. I see every prisoner also daily, who for any reason is absent from chapel; I have the prisoners in classes for religious instruction; I superintend the school also. At present I pass about three hours and a half daily in the prison, on an average. The prisoners make very fair progress in religious knowledge, but not at present in secular knowledge. A new schoolmaster, however, is about to be appointed. The conduct of the prisoners when at chapel, or otherwise under my care, is very good."

The prison was clean, as were the persons of the prisoners.

The bedding was sufficient, but some of the clothing, both of the convicted and unconvicted prisoners, was ragged.

There is no change in the dietary. The food was of good quality. Its daily average cost, last year, was $3\frac{3}{4}d.$ per head, which is rather less than the general average in other prisons.

Most of the prisoners had a healthy appearance. The surgeon being from home, I did not see him; but the deputy-surgeon stated as follows:—

"The present state of health in the prison is very good. There are only three prisoners who are sufficiently unwell to be unable to work, and two of these were ill on admission. The third case is that of an old man who is half idiotic, and who was noticed in Mr. Hill's last Report. The general health of the prisoners has been very good since Mr. Hill's last inspection. There has not been any epidemic in the prison. I have not seen any ill effect from the use of the cells for separate confinement. I have witnessed very good effects in this prison from the use of cod-liver oil in cases of incipient scrofula."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good, but many offences must at present escape detection.

The chief offences for which punishment is awarded are talking, obscenity, insolence, and refusing to work.

Only one prisoner made any complaint, and his complaint proved, on examination, to be groundless.

There were two prisoners, a father and son, (the latter only 18 years old,) the father being in for the twenty-first time, and the son for the fourth time. The father's commitments have been chiefly for poaching, but this son, and another of his sons, have been committed for burglary.

The register and accounts were in a proper state.

The net average cost per prisoner last year, (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs,) was nearly 21*l.*, which is 1*l.* below the general average in other prisons in England.

I am able to bear testimony to a considerable improvement in this prison since my last inspection, though it is still in a state in which I fear the great majority of the prisoners are morally injured by their imprisonment; much of their time being spent in bad company and idleness.

Shortly after leaving Swaffham I addressed the following letter to the visiting justices:—

GENTLEMEN, *Norwich, July* 13, 1850.

AT my inspection of the prison at Swaffham a few days ago, I found it greatly overcrowded, there being 105 prisoners with only 57 cells.

I need not remark that such a state of the prison must be productive of great corruption among the prisoners, many of whom pass their time during both the day and night in small bodies, with only the occasional presence of an officer.

While the prison at Swaffham is in this crowded state, I find that at Norwich Castle, although the number of prisoners there also is much greater than usual, there are about 50 unoccupied cells.

Under these circumstances, I would suggest, that application be made to the visiting justices of Norwich Castle (to whom I have mentioned the subject) for their consent to receive a portion of your prisoners into their prison; a selection being made of such convicted prisoners as are in good health and as have to remain longest in confinement.

If you should approve of this suggestion, and the visiting justices at Norwich should also concur in it, it would still, of course, be ne-

cessary to obtain an order from the Secretary of State for the removal of the prisoners to Norwich.

In order to prevent, in future, any prison in the county becoming overcrowded while there is vacant room in any other prison, I would suggest that the justices at the next quarter sessions do organize a plan by which the judges of the assizes and the magistrates at quarter sessions shall always be informed of the state of each prison, so that they may exercise a discretion in determining where to sentence prisoners to undergo their confinement; and if it should ever be found necessary, that similar information be sent to the magistrates at petty sessions.

As a means of attaining this object, I would recommend that some person at Norwich be appointed to receive a weekly return of the number of prisoners at Swaffham, Walsingham, and Wymondham, distinguishing, in the case of the prison at Walsingham, males from females.

If, which I hope will not be the case, all the prisons belonging to the county should at any time be filled, I would then recommend (if the Town Council at Norwich will consent) that a contract be entered into for sending some of the prisoners to the City Prison at Norwich, where there is always a considerable number of unoccupied cells.

In order to bring this subject under the consideration of the other parties concerned, I shall send a copy of this letter to the visiting justices at Norwich, Walsingham, and Wymondham.

I have, &c.

The following is the Chaplain's Report for the year ending Michaelmas, 1850. The remarks on the training of juvenile paupers are well worthy of consideration:—

"*To the Chairman of the Quarter-Sessions, Swaffham, Norfolk.*

"My Lord,—In making my first annual report on the state of your House of Correction at Swaffham, I must beg your Lordship's indulgence, as my report must be very full of imperfections, arising from a want of a longer experience; moreover, four months of the year just expired had passed before I entered on the duties of my office.

"Since the last report, on the recommendation of Mr. Hill, the Government Inspector of Prisons, three of the old officers have been removed, and their places filled by younger men, whose efficiency has greatly improved the discipline and general condition of the prison. A new schoolmaster, who is now also a turnkey, has been appointed through a suggestion from the same quarter, supported by the wishes of the late temporary chaplain; an arrangement that promises the best results.

"The gross number of commitments during the year has been—

For felony	232
For misdemeanours .	275
Total . . .	507

"The number for the preceding year was—

For felony	217
For misdemeanours . .	350
Total . . .	567

"Deducting from the total those who have only been in custody for re-examination, and others who have been bailed, or paid their fines, or been otherwise immediately discharged, there remain 429 prisoners on whose condition I feel competent to report. Of these, on their admission—

155	could not read at all.
104	could read imperfectly.
170	could read well.
Total 429	

274	could not write at all.
73	could write imperfectly.
82	could write well.
Total 429	

"13 only could be said to be men of any information, or be able to keep accounts, or say the multiplication table; whilst 95, more than a fifth, could not say the Lord's Prayer. It should be remarked, of the 104 who could read imperfectly, that their ability was only enough to make them more apt scholars, and that none of them could of themselves acquire any knowledge from the most simple books. It will thus be evident that education had not exercised its humanizing effects on the great mass of these criminals.

"With very few exceptions, the prisoners are desirous of being taught, and are attentive to instruction.

"Until the last quarter the gaol was very crowded, which has been a great obstacle to order and discipline; this is clearly proved by the better conduct of the men, and by the small number, in proportion, of punishments inflicted since there has been the means of generally giving each prisoner his separate cell.

"A very large majority of the prisoners are young men in the prime of life, between 18 and 40 years of age; and the number of commitments in the different seasons of the year seem to bear an inverse ratio to the amount of labour to be obtained; nor could it fail to strike attention, that in the heaviest calendar perhaps ever known (that of the last July Sessions), most of the offences concerned either food or clothing.

"It would, on inquiry, further appear that drunkenness has been in this district a fruitful source of crime. In some instances we learn that the prisoner was drunk when the alleged offence was committed, in others that the prosecutor being in that state, became a temptation and a ready prey, or that the prisoner was addicted to drinking, and so was driven to crime by want; these and the like are facts that present themselves to all who come in contact with the inmates of a gaol. In future reports I purpose giving accurate statistics of these and other points. I can now only, by a rough calculation, state my own impression, that at least two out of three commitments have their origin either immediately or indirectly in the vice of drinking.

"There is one other matter which has presented itself in my intercourse with prisoners that I mention with regret and anxiety, because

the evil is so easily seen and the remedy not so readily suggested. I allude to the great defects that appear to exist in the plan of educating orphan and other children, who are entirely brought up in Union workhouses. These defects seem the more painful when we consider who are the unhappy sufferers, and that a system affording better food, clothing, shelter, and instruction than the children of the poor generally get, should not produce equally good, social, and moral results.

"It is in the *industrial*, not in the religious training that the mischief appears to exist; and it shows itself in this way: when lads of sixteen or more leave the Union house, they find unusual difficulty in getting a livelihood, because they have not been accustomed to labour, nor taught to make themselves expert in any handicraft; in short, they are unprepared, because untrained for that life of industry to which providence has called them. Getting, at best, but small wages, they soon find themselves worse off than they were in the union house, and having none of the self-respect of the independent labourer, they as naturally return to its shelter as others do to their homes.

"During the last half-year this fact has been forcibly presented to myself in the persons of five such young men, four of whom were entirely brought up in unions, and the other nearly so; of the number, four have been transported, and the other, who was tried for a rape, though acquitted, was clearly most immoral in his mode of life.

"Their history, as I learnt it from them, appears to have this in common,—they were either too idle or too unskilful to work, and in the first pinch of want returned to the Union house, where, being no longer boys, they became impatient of its confinement, and were several times sent to prison for being disorderly, or for breaking out, and in the end committed the offences for which they have been transported for various terms.

"I have ventured to call attention to this evil, which I should be glad to find not so serious as I imagine, with the hope that others of more experience may suggest a remedy; for I cannot but think that the present system in the next generation will engender hereditary paupers, if nothing worse, and that a remedy would work great moral and financial good.

"In conclusion, I would notice this singular circumstance, that although several prisoners have been at some period of their lives in comparatively easy circumstances, I have not yet met with one who has ever been a depositor in a savings' bank.

"Hoping to make future reports, if such may again be my duty, more perfect,

I have, &c.,
I. P. EVANS,
Chaplain to Swaffham House of Correction.

NORWICH.—COUNTY PRISON.

[The Inspection commenced 6th July 1850.]

In accordance with some of the recommendations and suggestions in my Report last September, more useful and productive labour is done in the prison, though not to the extent that I recom-

mended; the school-room has been enlarged, and the prisoners are taught to write as well as to read; the surgeon sees every prisoner twice a-week, and makes a minute inspection once a month; every prisoner is now required to go into a tepid bath on admission and afterwards once a month; the prison dress has been made complete; no convicted prisoner is allowed to wear any article of his own (except flannels), and the unconvicted are permitted to wear the prison dress; the ventilation of the night-cells has been improved; and a record is now kept of the weight of all prisoners on admission and liberation, except those who are committed for less than a month. But in the following recommendations the magistrates did not concur:—

1. The passages and day-rooms to be lighted with gas.
2. The prisoners to be required to rise not later than at six o'clock all the year round, and not to be allowed to go to bed before nine.
3. As far as practicable, every prisoner to be required to perform a daily task throughout the year, equal to ten hours' fair labour.
4. The debtors to be all put on an equality with regard to sitting-rooms and bed rooms; and consequently no debtor to be allowed, as heretofore, to obtain by payment for it superior accommodation in these respects. With this view the first three rules at page 46 of the code of rules to be rescinded.
5. The time for visiting debtors to be reduced to three hours each day, and not to include any meal-hour.
6. The subordinate officers to wear a uniform, in conformity with the present practice in many of the best regulated prisons in England.

The plan for improving the ventilation was devised by the governor; and as it has proved to be efficient and is simple and cheap, I recommend it for adoption elsewhere, where additional means of ventilation are necessary. It consists of a zinc flue, divided into two longitudinal compartments, and running along the corridor, open at both ends to the fresh air and with tubes of about three inches in diameter, going alternately from the two compartments (so as to prevent communication) into the upper part of each cell. As the cell windows open, a current of fresh air is obtained by means of this tube; and, in point of fact, the air in the cells is good.

Much of the work in improving the ventilation of the prison was done by the prisoners.

The chief kinds of work that have been extended are knitting, shoemaking, tailors' work, carpentering, and assorting hair for cabinet-makers.

The prison seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 110, which is 18 more than the average in the previous year, and 8 more than the average in the last 10 years. At the time of my visit there were 141 prisoners.

The governor said that the increase was, in his opinion, owing chiefly to prisoners being now sent to Norwich Castle who used formerly to go to one or other of the houses of correction; and to the circumstance that owing to the present want of more employment, young men in the agricultural districts commit offences which, if they had more work, they either would not commit or would be able to pay a fine for instead of going to prison.

The chief exception to the observance of the rules is, that there are not any cells adapted to solitary confinement.

Artificial light not being provided, the prisoners continue to pass so much time in bed that there must be great danger of their contracting habits of sloth.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"My routine of duty continues the same as described in Mr. Hill's last Report. The general conduct of the prisoners, when at chapel, or otherwise under my charge, is decorous, respectful, and proper in all respects. I think the present system of discipline in this prison calculated in a high degree both to deter people from the commission of crime and to improve the characters of the prisoners. Whenever I have an opportunity I take means, by visits, correspondence, or otherwise, to ascertain the career of prisoners after their liberation, and to preserve an influence over them; and I have only to regret that I have not more opportunities, and that there is not a systematical mode of inquiry. Except the three cases mentioned by the governor, I have not any special knowledge of instances of marked improvement during the last year, but I have reason to believe that there are many."

I examined some of the prisoners in their instruction under the schoolmaster, and found their progress satisfactory.

The prison was quite clean and the prisoners were clean in their persons.

The bedding and clothing were sufficient.

The dietary lately recommended by the Secretary of State has been adopted.

The food was of good quality. Its daily cost last year was 3½*d.* per head, which is below the general average in other prisons.

The prisoners had a tolerably healthy appearance. The surgeon stated as follows:—

"The general health of the prisoners at the present time is extremely good. There are only two prisoners who are out of health: both these cases are serious, but in both cases the prisoners were in the same state on admission as they are now. The general health of the prisoners has been very good since Mr. Hill's last inspection. There has not been any epidemic since that time. The health of the prisoners generally improves during their imprisonment. The majority gain in weight."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good. The number of punishments last year was only 82, which is less than one per prisoner on an average. The chief offence is talking.

No prisoner made any complaint.

The governor mentioned three cases which had come to his knowledge during the last year of parties who were once in this prison for offences bespeaking habits of crime, but who are now living honestly and respectably. In one case the governor said that the party had, to his knowledge, endured great privations; but that, by great industry, the man had recovered his position in society. In two of the cases the governor had kindly assisted the parties in obtaining employment.

The registers and accounts were in a proper state.

The entries in the visiting justices' minute book showed the same vigilant superintendence as heretofore.

The net average cost per prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was between 24*l.* and 25*l.*, which is about 3*l.* above the general average in England, and 9*l.* above the average in Scotland. There is reason to hope, however, that the present year's account will prove more satisfactory.

About 35*l.* a-year might be saved by a prisoner acting as cook, and this arrangement I would suggest.

Under all the circumstances the general result of the inspection was creditable to Mr. Pinson, the governor, and to the other officers.

As mentioned in the Report on the prison at Swaffham, I recommended that arrangements should be made for preventing either of the county prisons being crowded whilst there is room in any other of the county prisons.*

NORWICH.—CITY PRISON.

[Inspected 9th July 1850.]

I was sorry to find that only one of the recommendations contained in my Report last September had been carried into effect, and that there had not been any improvement of any other kind. This I was informed was owing not to any indisposition on the part of the magistrates to make improvements, but to an unwillingness in the Town Council to grant the necessary funds. The following recommendations had not been acted upon :—

1. Such of the rooms and cells as are capable of it, and as are not always required for more than one prisoner, (beginning with the debtors' four day-rooms, in the north debtors' ward,) to be prepared for the separate confinement of prisoners, according to the provisions of the 2 and 3 Vict., c. 56, s. 4. The debtors in the north ward to be removed to the upper floor of the south debtors' ward.

2. A rule to be framed directing that the prisoners to be placed in these cells shall be selected according to the regulations suggested at page 30 of my 14th Annual Report.

* I am glad to be able to state, that not only has this recommendation been acted upon to a considerable extent, but that many cells have now been prepared for the separate confinement of prisoners.—March, 1851.

3. A large work-room to be formed out of the two rooms and the intermediate space in the upper story of the building containing the kitchen; and this room, together with the rooms which it is proposed to fit up as separate cells, to be lighted with gas.

4. A female warder and an additional male officer to be appointed.

5. As a general rule, every prisoner, whether convicted or unconvicted, to be either in a separate cell or under the constant supervision of an officer.

6. A rule to be framed directing that, instead of the present classification, the prisoners be classified according to the judgment of the governor, having reference to their age, previous convictions (if any), and general character and conduct.

7. The prisoners to be required to rise not later than at six o'clock all the year round.

8. The 59th rule in the official code (relating to work) to be adopted and carried into effect; and with this view, shoemaking, mat-making, calico-weaving, and other such kinds of work to be introduced; and, as far as practicable, every prisoner to be employed at his own trade. To facilitate this change, the governor to visit the prisons at Wakefield and Leeds, where much work of the kind is carried on.

9. As far as practicable every convicted prisoner to be required, throughout the year, to perform a daily task equal to 10 hours' fair labour.

10. Two more desks to be put up in the school-room, with a view to the schoolmaster having a larger number of prisoners in his charge at one time.

11. A provision to be made, as required by law, for the female prisoners, like the male prisoners, to learn to read and write. It is suggested that the duty of teaching them might be discharged either by the matron or by the female warder.

12. If the present dietary be continued, half a pint of milk at least to be included in each rate; and a rule to be framed directing that the governor, subject to the control of the surgeon, shall be authorized to determine each prisoner's rate of food, having regard to the prisoner's age, constitution, kind of work, and industry.

13. All prisoners, except those committed for one month or under, to be weighed on admission and discharge.

14. In order to improve the ventilation of the night-cells, the officers to be provided with the means of fastening the windows open, as is the case at the prison at Swaffham; and such of the ventilators in the doors as are out of order to be repaired.

15. Every prisoner to go into the tepid bath on admission, and afterwards at least once in each month, and to wash his feet every week.

16. The 46th rule in the official code (relating to clothing) to be adopted, omitting the last paragraph.

17. Sheets to be added to the bedding, it having been found

by experience at the county prison that, while sheets promote cleanliness, they save the wear of the blankets so much as to pay their own cost.

18. Some earthenware night-vessels, like those in use at the county prison at Derby, to be procured for the cells proposed to be used as separate cells, and for sick prisoners in other cells.

19. Rules to be framed directing that (subject, like his other powers, to the control of the visiting justices) the power of admitting visits to criminal prisoners, whether convicted or unconvicted, shall be left to the governor; and directing also that visits to debtors be restricted, except in any special case, to two hours each day; also that no debtor or untried prisoner shall be allowed more than one pint of fermented liquor in any day of 24 hours, and that no fermented liquor shall be drunk except in the presence of an officer, and at a time to be appointed by the governor.

20. The officers to wear a uniform.

21. Such a system of accounts to be adopted as will afford a sufficient check on disbursements of all kinds.

The building seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners in the year terminating with the end of last month was 42, which is considerably less than that of the previous year, and much less than the average of the last 10 years. This large decrease in the number of inmates in this prison shows how powerful other causes are besides prison discipline in affecting the amount of crime; for here, where the decrease of prisoners is so striking, the discipline is bad, admitting as it does of slothful habits and of much idleness and bad company.

The following is a return of the average number of prisoners in each of the last 10 years ending at Michaelmas:—

Year.	Criminals.			Debtors.			Total.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
1840	85	11	96	17	2	19	115
1841	55	9	64	11	2	13	77
1842	67	10	77	14	2	16	93
1843	69	11	80	13	2	15	95
1844	73	10	83	9	..	9	92
1845	55	8	63	2	..	2	65
1846	47	9	56	2	..	2	58
1847	45	6	51	3	..	3	54
1848	49	3	52	4	..	4	56
1849	50	4	54	3	1	4	58
Average	59	8	67	8	1	9	76

The following I found to be the chief exceptions to the observance of the rules:—

1. There is still no inventory of the prison property.
2. There is still very little useful and productive labour.

3. There is still no female warder.

4. No printed rules are yet hung up for the information of the prisoners.

5. There is still no sufficient provision for teaching the female prisoners to read, and none for teaching them to write.

6. Many convicted prisoners were again wearing their own clothing.

Part of the treadwheel being out of order, there is at present but little even of this unsatisfactory employment.

The last chaplain having received preferment in the church, a new chaplain has been appointed. This gentleman was absent on account of ill-health during the greater part of the time that I was at Norwich; but in a written communication he stated, that the conduct of the prisoners, when at chapel or otherwise under his care, was marked, for the most part, by strict outward attention, and invariably with great propriety and respect; but he added—

"I believe the prison ought to be regarded simply as a place of confinement for bad characters, but possessing little or nothing of a reformatory character. It is too frequently the school for vice. I am confident, the prisoners being allowed that freedom of association which prevails in the day-rooms is most injurious to society, and, in reality, cruel towards those prisoners who are not so far advanced in crime as others. The system itself is vicious, and cannot but have an unhappy effect. I have usually observed greater recklessness of mind, and the countenance to assume an expression of hardened villany, which was not so clear upon a first interview as at subsequent periods. One man lamented that it was impossible for him to cultivate serious reflection, because his companions would immediately make him a laughing stock; a cross which he had not faith to bear."

I was glad to find by examination that the prisoners had made more progress in their reading and writing than was apparent at my last inspection.

The prison was remarkably clean, but some of the prisoners had not been in the habit of washing their feet often enough.

The bedding was sufficient, but, as has already appeared, the supply of clothing was insufficient.

There had not been any change in the dietary. The food was of good quality. Its daily cost last year was about 3*d.* per head, which is considerably less than the general average in other prisons.

Most of the prisoners had a healthy appearance. The surgeon stated as follows:—

"Except two prisoners, named W. W. and R. F., who are under sentence of transportation, and who in my opinion are feigning illness, the prisoners are all in good health. By intentionally injuring their health, as I believe, W. W. and R. F. are now really invalids, though not nearly to the extent that they pretend. About three months ago, when R. F. was pretending to be so ill that he could not leave his bed, he was seen at the window, a short time after I had left him, making

signs to the governor's servant maid. W. W. for a time pretended to be insane, but upon my telling him that I saw through his imposture, and should have him punished if he went on with it, he begged me not to punish him, and ceased to pretend madness. I do not think it necessary that this prisoner should be allowed the use of tobacco. The general health of the prisoners since Mr. Hill's last inspection has been very good. There has not, indeed, been a single case deserving the name of illness."

With regard to the two prisoners mentioned by the surgeon, the governor stated as follows:—

"I have heard the evidence given by the surgeon relative to the prisoners R. F. and W. W., and I believe it to be quite correct. I am clearly of opinion that these prisoners are imposters, and that they are pretending illness for the sake of the indulgencies they obtain, and in the hope of procuring their liberation. When I charged R. F. with making signs to my servant-maid to come to him from the window of the day-room near his cell, he at first denied the charge altogether, saying that it was false, and that he had never moved from his bed, although two of the officers declared that they had seen him at the window; but on my confronting the servant before him (who on examination had admitted the fact) he acknowledged that he had been in the day-room, although he still denied having made the signs. This man has been an inmate both of Norwich Castle and of the prison at Swaffham.

"Soon after F. came here one of the other prisoners told me that F. had been boasting that he had escaped the wheel at Swaffham by pretending to be lame, and on my charging F. with this he said, 'Aye, I came round them pretty well at Swaffham; I'll tell you all about it some day,' or words to that effect. Directly W. W. found that we could not be imposed upon by his assumed madness he pretended to be very ill, and has carried on what, I believe, to be an imposture in this respect to this day; although by keeping in their beds so long, and sometimes refusing to eat for a time, both he and F. have no doubt now really injured their health. On one occasion, although apparently very ill, W. became angry because he thought that his coffee was not sweet enough, and in my presence he dashed the tin porringer, containing the coffee, against the wall."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good; but is probable owing to the want of separation or constant supervision, that many offences escape observation. In my last Report I gave many instances of misconduct, such as seldom or never occur in a well-ordered prison.

Only one prisoner made any complaint, and his complaint proved to be groundless.

The registers were in a proper state.

The average cost for prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was about 20*l*., which is 2*l*. below the general average in England, though 4*l*. above the general average in Scotland.

If the cells in this prison were warmed and lighted, and fur-

nished with means for the inmates to communicate with an officer, they might be certified as fit for the separate confinement of prisoners for short periods.

I agree with the chaplain in his low estimate of the effect, either deterring or reformatory, that can at present result from confinement in this prison.

NORWICH.—CITY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected 10th July 1850.]

There has not been any alteration in this lock-up house since my Report last September.

The recommendations contained in that Report that a regular provision should be made for supplying the prisoners with food (instead of their depending on the charity of the mayor), that the prisoners should be required to wash themselves well before being allowed any food, and that some rugs or blankets should be provided, have not been acted upon.

The place was clean, though some of the water-closets were in an offensive state.

The number of prisoners last year was 1,092, of whom 146 were females. The number is less by 423 than the number in the previous year.

At the time of my visit there was only one prisoner.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—BOROUGH PRISON.

[Inspected 11th July 1850.]

The county magistrates would not consent to contract for the care and maintenance of the prisoners, as recommended in my Report last October, with a view to the discontinuance of this prison, but most of the recommendations for making an immediate improvement in the present prison have been carried into effect. In accordance with these suggestions, the rules respecting bathing, clothing, and a monthly medical examination, which had been only partially acted upon, are now in full operation; a simple kind of work (oakum picking) has been introduced (though the treadwheel continues to be employed for prisoners sentenced to hard labour), and as far as practicable every convicted prisoner is required to do a daily task, though the task is not, as suggested, equal to 10 hours' labour; the governor has been empowered to classify the prisoners according to his own judgment, having reference to age, previous convictions, and general character; and more has been done than formerly towards keeping the prisoners under supervision, though not to the extent recommended.

The governor said that the regulation for setting all the convicted prisoners to work had of itself the effect of bringing the officers more in contact with the prisoners, and thereby of increasing the supervision.

The new dietary has been adopted.

There did not appear to have been any other change.

The building seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 25, which is about the average in the previous year.

On the day of my visit there were 24 prisoners.

There does not now appear to be any important exception to the observance of the rules.

The chaplain's routine of duties remains the same as described in my last Report, as does the schoolmaster's.

The examination of the prisoners in their progress under the schoolmaster was again highly satifactory. The writing in particular did great credit both to the schoolmaster and the prisoners. The writing-books would serve as a pattern of neatness and quick progress for almost any prison.

The chaplain stated that the present system of discipline is against the prisoners making satisfactory progress in religious knowledge.

The prison was quite clean, and the prisoners were clean in their persons.

The clothing and bedding were sufficient.

The food was of good quality. Its average daily cost last year was $5\frac{3}{4}d.$ per head, which is considerably above the general average in other prisons.

The prisoners had the appearance of being in good health, and the surgeon stated that their general health had been good since my last inspection; also, that the prisoners generally improved in health during their confinement.

The governor said that the conduct of the prisoners had improved since employment had been found for all of them. Still, there are cases sometimes on the part of a few prisoners of very bad conduct.

The chief offences are—quarrelling with fellow-prisoners, making loud noises, and refusing to work.

No prisoner made any complaint.

The governor mentioned a case of a female, whom he and the matron had kindly taken an interest in, and who, though she was formerly in this prison for felony, has now been living honestly and respectably for more than two years.

The registers, &c., were in a proper state.

The entries in the visiting justices' minute-book showed a frequent superintendence on their part.

The average net cost per prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was 25*l.*, which is 3*l.* above the general average in England. Most of the difference, however, may fairly be attributed to the small size of the prison; the cost of salaries, as often remarked, being higher, per prisoner, in a small prison than in a large one.

The evils arising from the bad construction of the building remain in force, but much has been done towards removing such evils as are capable of remedy; and, under all the circumstances, the result of the inspection was creditable to Mr. Shuckford (the governor) and to the other officers.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—BOROUGH LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected 11th July 1850.]

There has not been any change in this lock-up house since my Report last October.

The suggestion to have the cells warmed has not been acted upon.

The place was clean.

There were five prisoners, one of whom complained of the cold.

WYMONDHAM.—COUNTY PRISON FOR FEMALES.

[Inspected 12th July 1850.]

In accordance with the recommendations contained in my Report last September, steps have been taken towards having the cells which are used for the separate confinement brought within the provisions of the statute, but the work is not yet finished; the prisoners are taught writing, as well as reading; the clothing has been made complete; no convicted prisoner is allowed to wear any article belonging to herself, and the untried are permitted to wear the prison dress. The recommendations, however, which were dependent on the cells being lighted in winter, and otherwise prepared for being certified as fit for the separate confinement of prisoners, have not, of course, been yet acted upon; and some others have not yet been brought into operation.

There did not appear to have been any other change of importance.

The building seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 14, which is the same as the average in the previous year. On the day of my visit, however, there were 18 prisoners.

The chief exception to the observance of the rules was, that cells are still used for the separate confinement of prisoners which have not been certified as fit for that purpose, and which, not being warmed or supplied with artificial light, are not in a state to be so certified.

Artificial light not being supplied, the prisoners continue to pass far too much time in bed.

The work department is in the same state as described in my last Report. All the work is of a useful kind, but the quantity is not so great in winter as I hope it will be when the prison is lighted.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"My routine of duties remains the same as described in Mr. Hill's last Report. I think the prisoners make satisfactory progress in religious and secular knowledge. With very few exceptions, the prisoners here behaved well when at chapel, or otherwise under my charge. I think the system of discipline here in use is calculated to deter people from the commission of crime, and decidedly to improve the characters of the prisoners. There are very few recommittals."

The prison was remarkably clean and neat, and the prisoners were all clean and neat in their persons.

The clothing and bedding were sufficient.

The diet is the same as heretofore. I found the food of good quality. Its daily average cost last year was rather more than 4*d.* per head.

The prisoners all looked as if they were in tolerably good health; some, indeed, had a very healthy appearance. The surgeon stated as follows:—

"With one slight exception, all the prisoners are at present in good health, and their general health has been good since Mr. Hill's last visit. There has not been any epidemic in the prison since that time."

The matron stated that those who remained a short time generally improved in health, but that those who remained eight or nine months generally fell off. After such a period, the solitary confinement, she said, affected them.

The measures for rendering all the lower cells dry have not been completed. I believe the best alteration would be to substitute wooden floors.

The general conduct of the prisoners appears to have been very good. The number of punishments last year was 48.

No prisoner made any complaint.

Of the 18 prisoners at the time of my visit, 9 were servant maids, in prison for stealing from their employers.

There was a young woman in the prison who had been committed nine times for misconduct in a workhouse; her offence, I was informed, being a refusal to work. The matron of the prison spoke very highly of her conduct in all respects in the prison, and said that she worked very industriously, and was always very respectful. The reason the young woman gave for refusing to work in the workhouse was, that she was set to pick oakum, which she looked on as the labour of a felon; while in the prison she was employed in washing the clothes. She said that her parents were dead, and that she should like to go out to Australia; and, from the matron's report, I have little doubt she would make a good colonist.

The registers, &c., were in a proper state.

The net cost per prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was about 33*l.*, which is 11*l.* above the general

average in other prisons. This great cost, however, is owing to the small number of prisoners; the chief expense being that of salaries.

The general result of the inspection was very creditable to Mrs. Bryant, the matron.

WYMONDHAM.—COUNTY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected 12th July 1850.]

The lock-up house mentioned in my last Report has been completed, and brought into use. Consequently, no male prisoners whatever are now admitted into the house of correction.

This new lock-up house contains three cells, which are of a proper size, dry, lighted, warmed, and ventilated. There is also an airing-yard, and rooms for a resident constable and his wife.

The only serious defect is the insecurity of the airing-yard. I recommended that a portion of it should be formed into what is called an airing-gallery (which may be made quite secure), with a view of excluding the prisoners from the other part of the yard.

At the time of my visit there was no prisoner.

WALSINGHAM.—COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[Inspected 15th July 1850.]

I was much gratified at finding that the magistrates had adopted and carried into effect almost all the recommendations which I made at my visit last October. In accordance with these recommendations some of the cells have been prepared for being certified as fit for the separate confinement of prisoners according to the provisions of the 2 and 3 Vict., c. 56, s. 4; the infirmary, when not required for sick prisoners (which is seldom the case), is now used as a work-room; and, together with two of the day-rooms, besides such of the cells as have been prepared for separate confinement, is lighted; a rule has been framed directing that the prisoners shall be classified according to the judgment of the governor, with reference to age, previous convictions, and general character; as a general rule every prisoner is now either under constant superintendence, or separate from the other prisoners; the prisoners now rise not later than at six o'clock all the year round, and do not go to bed before nine at night; mat-making, net-making, knitting, and other useful kinds of work, have been introduced; and, as far, as practicable, every convicted prisoner is required to perform a daily task throughout the year, though the task is one of nine hours' fair labour instead of ten, as I suggested; a room has been built for the chaplain, so that he may have a convenient place for seeing the prisoners in private; the female prisoners are now taught to write as well as to read; school instruction is now given chiefly in the evening, when most of the work is over; steps are taking for introducing psalmody into

the service of the chapel; means have been provided for enabling the officers of the prison to fasten the cell windows open, so as to improve the ventilation; the prison dress, both for males and females, has been made quite complete; and no convicted prisoner, male or female, is now allowed to wear any article belonging to themselves; and prisoners, except those committed for very short periods, are now weighed on admission and liberation.

The plan for improving the ventilation, which appears to succeed very well, was suggested by the governor; who also devised a cheap lamp for the cells (there being no gas), and a simple and cheap means of enabling the prisoners to communicate with an officer.

The building seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 52, which is six above the average in the previous year.

At the time of the inspection there were 55 prisoners.

The only important exception at present to the observance of the rules is that cells are in use to a considerable extent for the separate confinement of prisoners which have not been certified as fit for that purpose; but these cells are now prepared for being certified, and the surgeon stated that he had not observed injury to the health of the prisoners from their use heretofore.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"The routine of my duties continues the same as described in Mr. Hill's last Report. The prisoners make satisfactory progress both in religious and secular knowledge. The general conduct of the prisoners, when at chapel or otherwise, under my charge is very good. I think the present system of discipline here has a decidedly beneficial influence on the characters of the prisoners; but I am doubtful whether it has much deterring effect. There are very few recommitments; but I think it is rather from a sense of shame, and a feeling of the impropriety of their former conduct, that those who have left the prison try to avoid being sent back, than from a fear of the punishment they should have to undergo. During the thirty years that I have held the office of chaplain, the offence of sheep-stealing, which used to be common, has almost entirely ceased; and I am not aware of any other offence that has become more common."

With regard to the deterring effect of the imprisonment, there is no doubt that it will be considerably increased by the arrangements which have been made for compelling the prisoners to rise early in winter as well as in summer, for requiring them to do a proper day's work all the year round, and for keeping them all either separate or under constant supervision.

The general progress of the prisoners in reading and writing was satisfactory.

The prison was remarkably clean and neat, and the prisoners were clean and neat in their persons and dresses.

The bedding and clothing were sufficient.

The dietary is the same as heretofore, except that the allowance of bread to prisoners in the fifth class has been increased by six ounces per day. The food was of good quality. Its daily cost last year was about 4*d.* per head, which is about the general average in other prisons.

Most of the prisoners had the appearance of being in good health, and the surgeon stated as follows:—

"All the prisoners are at present in good health; and their general health has been good since Mr. Hill's last inspection."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good. The number of punishments last year was 149, which is below the general average elsewhere.

Except in one trivial case, no prisoner made any complaint.

There were three brothers in the prison named F., one for stealing, and the other two for night poaching; and it appeared that two of them had been in the prison three times, and the other seven times; also that four other brothers had been in the prison (one of them twice, and each of the others three times), and that their mother, three sisters, and a cousin, had been there, the offences of two of the sisters having been followed by transportation.

If the grandparents of these young men had been made responsible for their children's conduct, it is probable that a large portion of this bad family would never have come into existence.

Including the cost of prosecutions, imprisonment, transportation, and of the property stolen at different times, 1000*l.* is probably a low estimate of the injury to society caused by this one family.

The registers and accounts were in a proper state.

The average net cost per prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was rather more than 26*l.*, which is about 4*l.* above the general average in other prisons. This difference may be fairly attributed, however, to the comparatively small number of prisoners.

The general result of the inspection was very satisfactory, and reflected much credit on Mr. and Mrs. Curtis (the governor and matron), and on the other officers.

SUFFOLK.

IPSWICH.—COUNTY PRISON.

[Inspected July 18, 1850.]

In accordance with some of the recommendations contained in my last Report (dated May 1849), steps have been taken towards having some of the cells prepared for being certified as fit for the separate confinement of prisoners, but the work has not been completed, no provision having been made for lighting the cells;

all the whitewashing, painting, shoe-making, tailors' work, and every kind of work for the prison which can be done by the prisoners is now performed by them; the arrangement by which the governor and his family had their linen washed by the prisoners has been discontinued; instruction is given to the female prisoners in reading and writing; no convicted prisoner, however short the period of his confinement, is now required or permitted to wear any article belonging to himself; such of the present rules as relate to the conduct of the prisoners have been printed and placarded in the different rooms; and the subordinate officers are now required to make a daily report on the state of their wards. But the following recommendations have not been adopted:—

1. Some simple kinds of work to be introduced, so that every convicted prisoner may be required to perform a daily task equal to 10 hours' fair labour.

2. When work and artificial light have been provided, the prisoners to be required to rise not later than at six o'clock all the year round, and not to be allowed to go to bed before nine.

A new chaplain has been appointed, who evidently takes a strong interest in his duties.

Two additional baths and 12 more crank machines (the power of which is wasted) have been provided.

The building seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 123, which is 26 more than the average in the previous year.

The increase during the last year has been chiefly of prisoners convicted of petty thefts, and of parties committed for disorderly conduct in workhouses.

The following appeared to be the chief exceptions to the observance of the rules:—

1. Employment with the necessary materials and instruction is found for only a few of the convicted prisoners who are not sentenced to hard labour.

2. Visits and letters to convicted prisoners have been allowed only once in six months (except in cases of illness), instead of once in three months.

3. There is no inventory of the prison property.

4. Cells continue to be used to a considerable extent for the separate confinement of prisoners, which have not been certified as fit for that purpose. The surgeon, however, stated that he had no reason for thinking that the health of the prisoners had suffered from their being confined in these cells during part of the day.

5. There is no book showing the receipt and consumption of food.

Artificial light not being provided, the prisoners continue to pass far too much time in bed.

It will be remarked that the work department, though improved by the employment of some prisoners in shoemaking,

tailors' work, whitewashing, &c., is still in a very unsatisfactory state. Few do any work beyond mere cleaning, except those who are sentenced to hard labour, and these perform a very insufficient quantity (not more, on an average, than two hours per day), and that of a kind which I regard as of the very lowest description, being crank labour, which is turned to utter waste.

It has been stated, as one advantage of this kind of work, that the labour can be regulated with much precision, according to the strength of each prisoner; but the governor and surgeon of this prison (where more of these machines are in use than in any other prison in my district) are of opinion that this advantage is illusory. The surgeon said,—

"The crank machine is quite incapable of being adjusted with any degree of nicety as regards the degree of strength required for turning it."

And the governor said,—

"I quite agree with the surgeon in his opinion that it is impossible to adjust the crank machines according to the strength of the different prisoners, by varying the weight required to move them in starting, though a rude kind of adjustment may be made by an officer frequently altering the pressure. Sometime with the same prisoner at work the pressure has to be altered three or four times in one afternoon, owing to the pressure changing while the prisoner is turning the crank."

While the work department is thus unsatisfactory, the school instruction is in a very good state, reflecting much credit on the schoolmaster and schoolmistress. I examined all the prisoners who had been a considerable time under their care, and was much pleased with the result.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"I read prayers daily, and perform service twice on the Sunday. I also give the prisoners religious instruction in classes, see them in private on their admission and discharge, and purpose seeing every prisoner at least once a-month, in private, intermediately. Not having, however, been as yet on duty for a month, the practice has hitherto, of course, not been established. Male prisoners who are sick or in solitary confinement I see daily. I also superintend the school and the distribution of the books. On an average, I pass about five hours each day on duty in the prison. The conduct of the prisoners when at chapel, or otherwise under my charge, has been very satisfactory."

The prison was, for the most part, clean, but some of the windows were dirty, and there was a want of neatness.

There was scribbling in some of the Bibles.

The clothing and bedding were sufficient.

The dietary is that recommended by the late Secretary of State. The food was of good quality, but last year it was very expensive, the cost having been more than 8*d*. per day for prisoners, which is nearly double the cost in most other prisons in England. The

most expensive article was meat, which cost nearly 2*d.* per day for each prisoner.

The deputy governor said that, in his opinion, many of the prisoners lived better than as labouring men they were able to live out of prison. Many country labourers in this district, he said, could not get meat once a-week.

The prisoners had generally an appearance of being in good health. The surgeon stated as follows:—

"The great majority of the prisoners are at present in good health. There are only five who are sufficiently unwell to be unable to work, and neither of these cases is serious. Except that there were several cases of typhus fever last autumn (three of which terminated in death), the general health of the prisoners has been good since Mr. Hill's last inspection. Fever prevailed in the town at the time it appeared in the prison, but I do not know any cause in the prison itself which could explain its appearing there. Except those who remain a long time in the prison, some of whom seem to suffer in health, the prisoners generally improve in health during their confinement. For the most part, they increase in weight."

The ventilation of the chapel is not sufficient, and it is desirable that the windows on the stairs should be made to open easily, and kept open throughout the whole of the summer.

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good. The chief offences are talking and using obscene language. The number of punishments last year was only 53, or at a rate of less than one per annum to two prisoners.

Owing to the want of more accommodation, the debtors, at the time of my visit, were all together, instead of being classified.

The debtors are allowed to smoke, but I would recommend that this privilege be abolished.

The time allowed to debtors to receive visits might, in my opinion, be advantageously reduced to three hours per day at most.

No prisoner made any complaint.

The registers were in a proper state, but the system of accounts does not appear to me to afford a sufficient check on the disbursements.

The food and other stores are supplied by public contract.

The net average cost per prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was about 29*l.*, which is 7*l.* above the general average in other prisons in England, and 13*l.* above the general average in Scotland.

The entries in the visiting justices' minute book showed a very frequent inspection on their part.

There is much to approve of in this prison, but combined with this there is, unfortunately, so much that is objectionable that I fear that both the deterring and reforming effect of the imprisonment must be small.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

NOTTINGHAM.—COUNTY PRISON.

[The Inspection commenced 3rd September 1850.]

In conformity with one of the recommendations in my last Report (dated August 1850) the person then in office as governor was pensioned off, and a new governor was appointed. The prisoners, moreover, now make their own clothing, and a few other recommendations of a minor kind have been acted upon; but the following recommendations have not been adopted:—

1. All convicted prisoners, male and female, to be removed to the prison at Southwell, and no convicted prisoner to be henceforth sentenced to confinement in the prison at Nottingham; and if by inadvertence such a sentence be passed, application to be made to the Secretary of State for the removal of the prisoner to Southwell. All female prisoners, whether tried or untried, to be in future committed to the prison at Southwell. Whenever it shall appear probable that the number of male prisoners at Nottingham would soon become too large for the accommodation, without using cells which are damp or very ill ventilated, the clerk to the magistrates at Nottingham to send notice of the fact to the county magistrates generally, with a request that, until they receive further information, they will commit all prisoners, including untried male prisoners, to Southwell.

2. Such of the cells as are suitable to be prepared for the separate confinement of prisoners according to the provisions 2 & 3 Vict. c. 56, s. 4; and with this view gas to be introduced into these cells.

3. The ventilation of the prison to be improved as much as possible, and with this view a fire to be always kept in the extracting shaft of the cells in yard No. 7; the windows in the cells and passages of the prison to be made to open wider, and means to be provided for fastening any window either open or shut. Further, the opinion of some competent person to be taken as to whether it is not possible, without incurring much expense, to improve the ventilation of the prison by the application of mechanical power (to be worked by prisoners) on the plan recommended by Dr. Arnott.

4. A wooden floor to be laid down in the dark cell; and if possible this cell, which one of the officers said sometimes smells damp in winter, to be rendered at all times dry.

5. Some simple kinds of work to be introduced, so that all untried prisoners and debtors who are willing to work may have employment.

6. The 46th rule in the official code (that relating to clothing) to be adopted.

7. A rule to be framed directing that no smoking shall be

allowed within the prison boundary, either by an officer or a prisoner.

8. A character-book, in the same form as that used in Preston prison, to be procured for the use of the chaplain in making his records of the characters, &c., of the prisoners.

9. The officers to wear a uniform.

10. The Poor-Law Auditor of the district, or some other properly qualified person, to be engaged to see that the pecuniary accounts are kept on a proper plan, and to audit them periodically.

The buildings seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 43, but owing to the imperfect manner in which the records were kept by the late governor, it was found difficult to compare this number with the average of previous years. At the time of my visit there were 35 prisoners, namely, 25 criminals and 10 debtors, all males.

There was no complete copy of the rules in force before the appointment of the present governor, and it did not appear that any rules had been subsequently submitted to the Secretary of State and sanctioned by him. The governor was acting to some extent on the official code which was in use at the prison at Stafford, where he was an officer previously to his present appointment, but as these rules had not been approved of by the Secretary of State for this prison, they could not be considered binding.* Under these circumstances, I inquired only into the enforcement of the statutory rules, applicable to all prisons. To the observance of these the following were, I found, the chief exceptions:—

1. Except in a few cases, as appears from what has already been stated, no provision is made for the employment of the prisoners. Of the 25 (exclusive of debtors) at the time of the inspection, 17 were passing the greater part of their time in idleness. One of them, a frame-work knitter, had been in the prison more than a year. Twelve of the 18 were indeed untried, who could not be compelled to work, but it appeared that they were willing to work if work had been provided.

2. The female prisoners have been removed from the damp room which they formerly occupied, but that in which they are now placed is very objectionable, inasmuch as the passage to it is through the debtors' yard, and as the window of the room overlooks a bad part of the town, with the people in which the females can communicate, at least by signals, though any conversation would probably be overheard and be followed by punishment.

3. There is no provision for classifying the female prisoners, but their number is very small; frequently, indeed, there is not a single female prisoner.

* A body of rules has since been submitted to the Secretary of State and approved of by him.—January, 1851.

Artificial light not being provided, the prisoners continue to pass far too much time in bed.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"My routine of duty remains the same as at Mr. Hill's last inspection, but in the statement given in his Report there is an omission; inasmuch as in one of the services on the Sunday I give a familiar explanation of some portion of Scripture, or the Collect or Catechism, instead of a second sermon. I might also add, that I consider it my duty to correspond when occasion offers respecting any of the prisoners with their friends, or the clergyman of their parish. Frequent occasions of the kind have occurred. The conduct of the prisoners when in chapel has been good. The misconduct which does arise is attributable in my opinion chiefly to the want of occupation, and to the day-wards being sometimes over crowded. Prisoners of a better character are often annoyed by having to associate with others who are much worse than themselves; but I do not think the present system of discipline calculated to have much deterring effect on the confirmed criminal."

The following are extracts from the chaplain's journal:—

"September 1.—Mr. Francklin, visiting justice, gave me an order for getting slates for prisoners to learn to write upon, several having asked for this privilege.

"September 8.—On visiting the men's wards they expressed themselves much pleased and thankful for being allowed slates and pencil to learn to write with, and they had evidently made good use of them.

"September 22.—Prisoners in their day-wards all contented, and evidently making a much better use of their time from having slates to write upon, &c.

"October 13.—Several prisoners had made good use of slates, and were evidently much interested in working sums in arithmetic, asking me questions on the difficulties they had met with. One woman had learnt to read with such progress as to do Mrs. Brierley (the matron) great credit, the woman being at first peculiarly dull and slow. Two men also exhibited to me very good specimens of writing, though they had never been able to write before they came in. All these things evidently keep the prisoners' minds employed, and more cheerful and grateful (or at least more satisfied and content) than they would otherwise have been, especially with such numbers as we now have, crowding every part of the prison in use.

"December 11.—Three men discharged, who promised well, and after a long imprisonment seemed likely to go home and try to live honestly and quietly.

"December 29.—Again noticed that several men had made great progress in writing on slates, &c.

"April 6.—Two boys in No. 2 Ward, one a desperately vicious character, the other not hardened or unpromising. I have no doubt that if we had means of keeping such separate while in prison, much contamination might be avoided, which is now inevitable from those "evil communications" to which all prisoners tried and untried, youths and adults, are exposed from the want of a few separate cells, which might easily be made (I am told) in this prison.

May 24.—Found a class of nine men reading in the chapel: they seemed all attentive and trying to learn. The governor (Mr. H.) commenced having them to learn in classes this week. Besides teaching them, it takes so much of their time from the long hours otherwise spent with each other, often in corrupting one another's minds in their day-wards.

June 1.—Found a Bible torn in No. 1 (the rent recent): on being asked, the men said they had not had paper supplied to them for some time, but denied having torn leaves out of the Bible. In No. 4 there were nine prisoners, including two lads, who seemed and were said to be troublesome and mischievous, the number too large for the room; if these lads could be separated in cells fitted for the purpose, even for a few days or a week, it would be a great acquisition to the means of discipline and improvement in this prison. They had contrived to damage a good coat of another prisoner, and would not confess which of them had done this ill-natured piece of wanton mischief.

" Same day.—Visited female ward, when it occurred to me that it is very injurious (or may be so) to have, as now in this ward, an old convicted prisoner, sentenced to transportation for life for procuring abortion, in the same room night and day with those for trial, one of them a girl of 16, and another of 21 years. The old one sends messages by those who go out from time to time, and thus connexions may be contracted or continued of a depraving tendency.

" June 12.—Distributed arithmetical tables, &c. No. 4 again overcrowded, scarcely room to sit down. Two men in another part at work, one shoemaking and the other mending clothes; they seemed thankful to have work to do, instead of being idle all day long.

" June 22.—No. 4 still too crowded, 11 men in it; this makes them more quarrelsome, and you cannot so well say who is in fault among so many."

There is no regular schoolmaster, and though instruction is given by the governor and one of the officers, there is much need, in my opinion, of a more regular and systematic provision for teaching, especially as there is but little occupation of any other kind in the prison. At the time of my visit, the instruction had been altogether suspended for about three weeks, owing to the governor having been much absent in consequence of having to convey transports to London and Wakefield.

There is a tolerably good library, and the books were in a satisfactory condition.

The prison was clean, and the prisoners were clean in their persons.

At the time of my last inspection there was no sufficient provision for supplying the prisoners with clean stockings, but this defect has been remedied.

The bedding was sufficient, but some of the clothing was ragged.

The only change in the dietary is, that milk is now given to all prisoners who remain long in the prison. The food was of good quality. Its daily average cost last year was 4*s*. 4*d*. per head, which is about the general average in other prisons.

The prisoners seemed, as a body, to be in good health, and the surgeon stated as follows:—

"With one exception, that of a transport who came in ill, the prisoners are in good health, and their general health, of late, has been very good. The health of the prisoners has materially improved since the present governor was appointed, owing to the greater degree of cleanliness now enforced, and to the increased general attention paid to the prison. Owing to the removal of a quantity of rubbish which had been allowed to accumulate in the place from which the flue proceeds which supplied the cells in yard No. 7 with air, and to the cleansing of the drain near these cells, the ventilation of these cells has been much improved, and I am of opinion that, with the attention that will no doubt be paid to their ventilation by the present governor, these cells may safely be used for the separate confinement of prisoners; but the ventilation of the other cells which were constructed for separate confinement is still insufficient unless the wooden doors of these cells be left open and the grated doors used. The lowest cells, which are damp, are now used as seldom as possible; those on the women's side indeed have been wholly discontinued. At present, I do not know any cause of disease in operation in the prison."

The governor stated that the general conduct of the prisoners, since he had entered on his office, had been good, but as prisoners are together without an officer being always present with each class, it is probable that many offences escape detection.

In a yard there were six transports and a man who had been sentenced to death but respited, without an officer being with them; and in another six untried prisoners were together without an officer.

No prisoner made any complaint.

The registers were in a very neat state.

It is desirable that an account should be kept showing the receipt and consumption of food; and the governor stated that he was about to open such an account.

The food and other stores are not supplied by public contract, but application appears to be made to different parties to ascertain from whom they can be had most advantageously.

The average net cost per prisoner last year was between 24*l.* and 25*l.*; which is about 2*l.* above the general average in other prisons in England.

There has been a considerable improvement in the details of management of this prison since the present governor came into office, but the great evils remain. Simple justice to the untried, not to speak of other motives, demands that the prisoners should be screened from contamination; but here this is not the case; and a person wholly innocent of the charge against him may be compelled to associate for months with a hardened criminal, the time being passed chiefly in idleness under very imperfect supervision and altogether in circumstances almost certain to result in great moral injury. And while this is the

case, there are cells in the prison which, with little trouble or expense, might be put into a state to be certified as fit for the separate confinement of the majority of the prisoners, and there is plenty of room at Southwell prison for the remainder.

If no material improvement could be effected in this prison without incurring a large expense I could not recommend it; since the general construction of the building is so bad, and its situation so objectionable, that a wiser course would be the entire and speedy abandonment of the prison; but nearly the whole expense necessary for introducing the Separate system, to the extent just indicated, has been already incurred by the recent construction of a considerable number of cells, evidently intended for the Separate system; these cells being unnecessarily large for mere sleeping cells, and being supplied with artificial heat, which in the case of sleeping cells is quite superfluous.

Even if it were proposed wholly to abandon this prison in a couple of years' time, I am of opinion that it would be wise and proper to incur the small additional expense now required for affording the means of separating the prisoners, and thereby of putting an immediate end to the present fearful system of corruption.

NOTTINGHAM.—COUNTY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected 7th September 1850.]

There did not appear to have been any alteration in this lock-up house since the date of the last Report (August 1849).

The place was in neat order, but it wanted whitewashing.

There was not any prisoner.

The number of prisoners last year was 371, which is rather more than the number in the previous year.

NOTTINGHAM.—TOWN PRISON.

[Inspected 3rd September 1850.]

In accordance with some of the recommendations contained in my last Report (dated August 1849) the library has been enlarged; the ventilation of the kitchen and of the night-cells and corridor near the kitchen has been improved; the surgeon makes a minute inspection every month: the bath has been removed from the kitchen, and every prisoner goes into it on his admission and afterwards once each month. But the recommendations to have part of the prison lighted by gas, to require the prisoners to rise early in winter as well as in summer, to introduce frame-work knitting and other useful kinds of work, and to have all the convicted prisoners clothed in a prison dress have not been adopted.

The building appeared to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 58, which is eight above the average in the previous year, though only one more than the average in the last ten years.

The governor attributed the increase, as compared with the previous year, chiefly to the strikes among the workmen of late, and to the habits of idleness thereby engendered, especially among the boys.

At the time of my visit there were 45 prisoners.

The rules are the same as those in force at my last inspection. The following are now the chief exceptions to their observance:—

1. There is no classification among the female prisoners; the construction of the building not admitting of any.

2. The female prisoners are still not taught to write, but the male prisoners now receive this kind of instruction.

Artificial light not being provided, the prisoners continue to pass far too much time in bed; in winter between 14 and 15 hours out of the 24.

The work department continues in an unsatisfactory state: those sentenced to hard labour are employed on the treadwheel; the power of which is turned to no account, and many of the others pass the chief part of the day in idleness. All the clothes however are made in the prison, and the prisoners cook and wash. They are employed too, as far as possible, in keeping the prison in repair.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"My routine of duties continues much the same as described in Mr. Hill's last Report. I now, however, more frequently visit the friends of prisoners before their liberation, and prisoners themselves after their liberation than formerly. I was not aware that it was the wish of the visiting justices that I should see every prisoner in private once a month. The conduct of the prisoners when at chapel or otherwise under my charge is exceedingly good. I think the present system of discipline here has a considerable deterring effect; but I do not think that, as a general rule, it produces much benefit on the character of the prisoners."

As the schoolmaster was absent I did not examine the prisoners to see what progress they had made under him.

The prison was clean; but some of the prisoners had dirty feet, though, in other respects, their persons were clean.

The bedding was sufficient, but the supply of clothing is insufficient, many even of the convicted prisoners still wearing their own clothing.

Some of the clothing was out of repair.

There has not been any change in the dietary. The food was of good quality. Its daily cost last year was rather less than 4*d.*, which is rather less than the general average.

The surgeon stated as follows:—

"With one exception, the prisoners are at present all in good health, and in the case referred to the prisoner had his disease (affec-

tion of the heart) before his admission to the prison. The general health of the prisoners has been very good since Mr. Hill's last inspection. There has not been any epidemic in the prison. The prisoners continue to improve generally in health during their confinement."

The general conduct of the prisoners, except that of the boys, was reported to have been tolerably good. The chief offences were stated to be disorderly conduct when no officer was present.

The only complaint was a well-founded one by a prisoner who had been compelled to wear his own boots in the prison, and whose boots had consequently been worn out. I again called the attention, however, of the visiting justices to the propriety of providing a full supply of clothing, and they expressed their concurrence in it, so that I hope that all ground for such complaints in future will be removed.

The governor stated that the following cases of reformation or improvement had come to his personal knowledge during the last year :—

" E. F., [aged] 20, tried at the Lent Assizes, 1849, for stealing from the person; 12 months' imprisonment; is now working as a smith, and is very steady and industrious.

" W. M., 23, tried at the same assizes for stealing tools; eight months' imprisonment; is now working at his trade (a joiner); is very steady and industrious, and attends a place of worship with his wife very regular.

W. D., 19, tried at the same assizes for stealing in a shop; 10 months' imprisonment; is now working as a framework knitter; is steady and industrious and doing well.

" W. R., 39, tried at the same assizes for stealing a quantity of goods from his employer; 12 months' imprisonment; has succeeded in obtaining a very respectable and responsible situation, and is going on well.

" T. B. H., 60, tried at the summer sessions, 1849, for embezzling a considerable sum of money the property of his employers; four months' imprisonment: is now in a situation, and appears to be going on very well indeed.

" J. G., 17, tried at the same sessions for stealing from his employer; three months' imprisonment; is now at work and doing very well.

" J. L., 13, tried at the Michaelmas sessions 1849 for stealing in a shop from his employer; one month's imprisonment and once whipped; having no parents to take charge of him at the expiration of his sentence, I got him admitted into the Union workhouse, where he now is learning the trade of shoemaker and is conducting himself very well.

" H. S., 24, framework knitter, was committed to this prison July 1, 1841, for one month under the Vagrant Act. Was tried for felony, April sessions 1845; acquitted. Again tried for felony at the January sessions 1846; convicted and sentenced to six months' imprisonment; at the expiration of his sentence he determined not to associate again with his old companions, and commenced work in earnest, he still

continues to be sober, steady, and industrious; his appearance is highly creditable and bespeaks a thorough reform. I have spoken with him this day, and he says nothing could induce him to fall back into bad habits again."

The governor stated as follows:—

"The last cases of illness were those of two prisoners named W. H. and J. K., two Irishmen, who stated before the magistrates that they had committed their offences (breaking a lamp and a window) in order to be sent to prison, that they might get shelter and be treated for their illness; they said they had applied in vain for admission to the workhouse, and this was admitted by the relieving officer, but this officer stated that the men had not said in what state they were in. On the expiration of their imprisonment they were admitted into the workhouse, both of them being still ill."

The registers and accounts remain as heretofore. They were in neat order and not in arrears.

The net cost per prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was about 22*l.*, which is the general average in England.

As appears by the prior part of the Report there have been several improvements since my last inspection, but the following paragraph of that Report is still applicable:—

"The governor is evidently a zealous and efficient officer; but so long as the prisoners are allowed, as heretofore, to contract habits of sloth, by passing the greater part of their time, in winter, in bed, and are habituated either to idleness, or to labour which is neither instructive nor profitable, and which must tend to excite a distaste for industry, it cannot be reasonably expected that, except in particular cases, any moral improvement can be wrought in them, or even that further injury can be prevented."

NOTTINGHAM.—TOWN LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected 5th September 1850.]

In accordance with one of the recommendations in my last Report the ventilation has been improved (though it still appears to be insufficient), and most of the other recommendations have been carried into effect.

The place was clean and neat.

The number of prisoners last year was 662, which is nearly 100 more than in the previous year.

At the time of my visit there was only one prisoner.

SOUTHWELL.—COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[Inspected 6th September 1850.]

In accordance with some of the recommendations in my last Report (dated August 1849) all the convicted prisoners are now supplied with prison clothing; some of the prisoners are taught

to write; the officers wear a uniform; and other minor changes have been made. But the following recommendations have not been adopted:—

1. The ventilation of the treadmill to be improved.
2. Such of the cells as are capable of it to be prepared for the separate confinement of prisoners.
3. The prisoners to be required to rise not later than at six o'clock, both in winter and summer; and with this view the passages and day-rooms to be lighted in winter.
4. Mat-making to be introduced.
5. As far as practicable every prisoner to be required to perform a stated task of work every day, instead of working by the hour.

The building appeared to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 89, which is nearly the same as the number in the previous year, though 17 below the average of the last 10 years.

The following were the chief exceptions to the observance of the rules:—

1. Little employment except cleaning is found for convicted prisoners not sentenced to hard labour, or for untried prisoners.
2. There is no classification of the female prisoners, but the number is generally very small.

The prisoners now make and mend their own shoes, stockings, shirts, and other clothing, and they wash the clothing also, instead of there being hired washerwomen as heretofore. This is a considerable improvement; nevertheless, the great majority of the prisoners who are unemployed continue to work on the treadwheel, the power of which is turned to no account.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"My routine of duty remains the same as described in Mr. Hill's last Report. I think the prisoners make as satisfactory progress as can be expected in religious and secular knowledge. The conduct of the prisoners, when at chapel or otherwise, under my charge, is very good. I am of opinion that the present system of discipline has a considerable deterring effect. Formerly vagrants used to be congregated in a body, without work, and without an officer being present to preserve order, and then I believe that the prison was often a place of attraction to them; but since a different course of treatment has been observed, their number has greatly lessened. It is difficult to say how far the system in use is calculated to improve the characters of the prisoners, as most of the prisoners disappear from view after their liberation."

The schoolmaster's duties remain the same as heretofore, except that he now teaches writing besides reading and the catechism. I examined some of the prisoners, and found their general progress satisfactory.

The prison was very clean, as were the persons of the prisoners.

The bedding and clothing were sufficient, but some of the clothing was out of repair.

The dietary is unchanged. I found the food of good quality. Its daily average cost last year was 4½*d.*, which is rather above the general average elsewhere.

Most of the prisoners appeared to be in good health, and the surgeon stated as follows:—

"With few exceptions the prisoners are at present in very good health, and their general health, since Mr. Hill's last inspection, has been very good. There are four or five prisoners who are not well enough to work (two on account of old age), but none of the cases are serious. There has not been any epidemic in the prison since Mr. Hill's last visit. I do not know anything in the prison tending to cause illness."

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to have been good. The number of punishments last year was considerably below the general average in other prisons.

No prisoner made any complaint.

The governor mentioned two cases which had come to his knowledge during the last year of parties who had been in the prison for felony, but who are now living respectably.

There is a simple kind of kneading machine used in making the bread of the prison, which the governor and surgeon said secured the bread being properly made.

The registers were in proper order. Since the last inspection a book has been kept showing the receipt and consumption of the chief articles of food.

The average net cost per head last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was 24*l.*, which is 2*l.* above the general average in England. It should be remarked, however, that the present governor was not in office during the greater part of the year to which this account relates.

It will be seen that there have been several improvements since the last inspection, and so far as the present system of discipline admits of satisfactory results the state of the prison reflected credit on Mr. Dewhurst, the governor, and on the other officers; but the long hours passed in bed, and the want of a much greater quantity of useful labour, prevent the prison from being regarded in a really good state.

SOUTHWELL.—COUNTY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected 6th September 1850.]

In compliance with the recommendations contained in my last Report (dated September 1849) the yard has been rendered dry.

There did not appear to have been any other alteration.

The place was very clean and neat.

The number of prisoners last year was 68, which is 27 less than in the previous year. The constables in charge said there had been fewer tramps of late.

At the time of my visit there was no prisoner.

DERBYSHIRE.

DERBY.—COUNTY PRISON.

[The Inspection commenced 9th September 1850.]

In accordance with a recommendation in my last Report (dated August 1850) a large work-room and a forge have been built, in which some of the prisoners are employed in useful kinds of labour, such as shoemaking, tailors' work, weaving, blacksmiths' work, &c.; but the recommendation to have the whole prison lighted with gas, so as to admit of early rising, and of a full day's work all the year round, has not yet been acted upon.

A long shed has been erected, containing about 20 divisions, where prisoners are employed, separately, in breaking stones.

There has not been any other alteration of importance.

The buildings seemed to be in good repair.

The average number of prisoners last year was 208, which is rather less than the average in the previous year, though 22 greater than the average of the last 10 years.

The number of commitments has decreased, as compared with the previous year, in greater proportion than the average number of prisoners in custody; the reduction of commitments being from 1401 to 1217. This decrease has been chiefly in the number of vagrants, and the governor attributes it principally to the introduction of stone-breaking; many of the vagrants being now required to break a certain quantity (about half a ton each) before having their dinner, and the same quantity before getting their supper.

The chief exception to the observance of the rules is, that some cells are used to a considerable extent for separate confinement which have not been certified as fit for that purpose, though, as stated in the last Report, the surgeon is of opinion that no injury has thereby resulted to the health of the prisoners.

With reference to the use of these cells the governor stated as follows:—

"The untried prisoners are in separate cells during the greater part of the day. They are, however, about two hours each day in school, about an hour in chapel, and about three hours in the airing-yards, together equal to about six hours per day, during the whole of which they are associated. The rest of their time is passed in separation. Most of the convicted prisoners are in separate cells the greater part of the alternate days."

There is a difference of opinion as to what constitutes separate confinement. As I interpret the law, confinement in a separate cell during any part of the day is, so far as it goes, separate confinement within the meaning of the Act; and I therefore cannot

but look on the present case as a considerable departure, at least, from the letter of the law, though the spirit of the law has in most respects been complied with, as the cells are well warmed and ventilated, and the prisoners are supplied with work, and have abundance of exercise in the open air.

If the cells were all lighted, and if means were provided for enabling the inmates to communicate with an officer, I should be able to certify them as fit for the separate confinement of prisoners for short periods at least, and should probably be able, after watching the effect of a trial, to increase the period; for although the cells are of small size, one great object in having larger cells —good air for breathing—is attained by the vigorous system of ventilation in use.

A considerable improvement has been made in the labour department, but the majority of the prisoners are still employed on the treadwheel or in picking oakum.

The clear value per head last year of work done for sale was about 1*l.* 15*s.*; which, though a small sum, is more than in most other English prisons.

No estimate was made of the value of the work done for the prison, but it must have been considerable.

The chaplain stated as follows:—

"My routine of duty remains the same as it was at Mr. Hill's last inspection. There is, however, a mistake in the account of the routine in Mr. Hill's Report, inasmuch as my private visits to the prisoners are on an average about once a month, instead of being weekly, as there recorded. On the whole the prisoners make satisfactory progress in religious and secular knowledge. The general conduct of the prisoners, when at chapel or otherwise, under my charge, is good. I think the present system of discipline here is calculated both to deter people from the commission of crime and to improve the character of the prisoners."

The duties of the schoolmaster and schoolmistress continue the same as heretofore.

I examined some of the prisoners in reading and writing and found that the females had made satisfactory progress, but I cannot report favourably of the progress of the male prisoners. I fear, indeed, that the schoolmaster is becoming too old for the efficient discharge of his duties.

The prison was clean, as were the persons of the prisoners.

The bedding was sufficient, but some of the clothing (principally that of the untried prisoners) was out of repair.

A new and less expensive dietary has been adopted, which, except in a few cases where it was found necessary to give a little extra food, the surgeon said proved sufficient. Its daily cost per head, at the present time, is 3½*d.*

The following is a copy of the dietary:—

Scale of Diet.

	Convicted Prisoners for any term not exceeding One Calendar Month. First Class.					Convicted Prisoners for terms exceeding One Calendar Month, and not exceeding Three Calendar Months. Second Class.							Prisoners for Trial, Debtors, and Convicted Prisoners, for terms exceeding Three Calendar Months. Third Class.									Prisoners under Punishment for Prison Offences for terms not exceeding Three Days.			Prisoners under Punishment for Prison Offences for terms exceeding Three Days.				
	Breakfast.		Dinner.	Supper.		Breakfast.		Dinner.			Supper.		Breakfast.		Dinner.				Supper.			Breakfast.	Dinner.	Supper.	Breakfast.		Dinner.	Supper.	
	Bread.	Porridge.	Bread.	Bread.	Gruel.	Bread.	Porridge.	Bread.	Potatoes.	Soup.	Bread.	Porridge.	Bread.	Porridge.	Bread.	Potatoes.	Meat.	Soup.	Bread.	Porridge.		Bread.	Bread.	Bread.	Bread.	Porridge.	Bread.	Bread.	Gruel.
	oz.	pts.	oz.	oz.	pts.	oz.	pints	oz.	lbs.	pts.	oz.	pts.	oz.	pints	oz.	lbs.	oz.	pts.	oz.	pts.		oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	pts.	oz.	oz.	pts
Sunday .	6	1	10	4	1	8	1½	8	..	1	6	1	8	1½	12	..	..	1	1	1		6	10	4	6	1	10	4	1
Monday .	6	1	10	4	1	8	1½	8	1	..	6	1	8	1½	8	2	..	..	8	1		6	10	4	6	1	10	4	1
Tuesday .	6	1	10	4	1	8	1½	8	1	..	6	1	8	1½	12	..	4	..	8	1		6	10	4	6	1	10	4	1
Wednesday	6	1	10	4	1	8	1½	8	..	1	6	1	8	1½	12	..	..	1	8	1		6	10	4	6	1	10	4	1
Thursday .	6	1	10	4	1	8	1½	8	1	..	6	1	8	1½	8	2	..	..	8	1		6	10	4	6	1	10	4	1
Friday .	6	1	10	4	1	8	1½	8	1	..	6	1	8	1½	12	..	..	1	8	1		6	10	4	6	1	10	4	1
Saturday .	6	1	10	4	1	8	1½	8	1	..	6	1	8	1½	8	2	..	..	8	1		6	10	4	6	1	10	4	1
Total for the Week	lbs. oz. 2 10	pts. 7	lbs. oz 4 6	lbs oz. 1 12	pts. 7	lbs. oz. 3 8	pints 10½	lbs. oz. 3 8	lbs. 5	pts. 2	lbs. oz. 2 10	pts. 7	lbs. oz. 3 8	pints 10½	lbs. oz. 4 8	lbs. 6	lbs. oz. 0 4	pts. 3	lbs. oz 3 8	pts. 7									

Ingredients in Soup, Porridge, and Gruel.

The *Soup* to consist (each pint)—Meat, without bone, 1 oz.; Barley, Peas, Beans, or Rice, 2 oz., with a proper quantity of Onions, Leeks, Turnips, Carrots, Cabbage, or other Vegetables, and to be seasoned with Salt.

The *Porridge* to consist (each pint)—Skimmed Milk, half a pint; Water, half a pint; Oatmeal, 1½ oz.

The *Gruel* to consist (each pint)—Water, 1 pint; Oatmeal, 1½ oz.

The food was of good quality.

The prisoners had generally the appearance of being in good health, and the surgeon stated as follows :—

"With few exceptions, and none of a serious character, the prisoners are at present in good health, and their general health has been good since Mr. Hill's last inspection. There has been a remarkable exemption from diarrhœa, even when there was a good deal in the town. There has not been an epidemic of any kind in the prison during the last year. The majority of the prisoners, even of those who remain a considerable time, improve in health during their imprisonment, and many gain in weight. I am aware that the great majority of those who are committed for short periods, and who are, consequently, on the first or second rate of food lose weight, but this is in many cases the loss of fat only, which is of no real benefit; and I am of opinion, that in the generality of cases there is no real injury to health accompanying the loss of weight which takes place in these classes of prisoners. When I think a prisoner would really suffer in health by continuing on a low rate of food, I increase his allowance. There is at present a remarkable case of improved health. It is that of a man who before his committal to prison, about seven months ago, was a confirmed drunkard. Since his committal he has increased 40 pounds in weight, and has altogether so much improved in his general appearance and tone of health that he would scarcely be recognized as the same man. I have frequently been asked whether prisoners did not suffer in health by the sudden withdrawal of intoxicating drinks on their coming to prison. In reply, I can say that in all my experience (and I have attended the gaol 27 years) I never knew a single instance of any injury of the kind. The same remark applies to the withdrawal of opium. I have not seen any injury to arise from the use of the separate cells to the extent to which separation is carried here. I am of opinion that the cells are quite fit for the separate confinement of prisoners for such a period as a month, or even for a longer period."

Though the prisoners had generally a healthy appearance, the large proportion of cases in which they at present lose weight will make it necessary carefully to watch the further effect of the new dietary. Of three bodies of 30 prisoners, each taken indiscriminately, who had been on each of the three rates of food, it appeared that of those who had had the third and highest rate as many had gained as had lost in weight; but that of those who had had the second rate only 9 had gained while 20 had lost, the other remaining stationary; and that of those who had been on the lowest rate only 2 had gained in weight while 27 had lost.

Nevertheless, general as is the loss of weight with the present dietary, the loss is less than it was with the late dietary, although the late dietary was the more expensive.

The present dietary came into use on the 1st December 1849, between which time and the present (1st September 1850) there have been 762 prisoners committed (exclusive of debtors). Of these 199 gained weight, and 481 lost weight, the average gain being 4¼ lbs., and the average loss 5¼ lbs.; whereas in the corre-

sponding period of the previous year, when the old dietary was in use, out of 604 prisoners committed only 70 gained, while 457 lost weight, the average gain being $2\frac{3}{4}$ lbs., and the average loss nearly 5 lbs. In other words, the general average loss under the present dietary has been $2\frac{1}{4}$ lbs per head, while under the old dietary it was about $3\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

The conduct of the prisoners since my last inspection was reported to have been generally good. The number of punishments has again been small, only 275 during the year, with an average of more than 200 prisoners. The chief offences are irregular conduct in the airing-yards and on the treadwheel, and the ordinary punishments, loss of food and solitary confinement, though, with occasional instances, I am sorry to say, of corporal punishment.

Only one prisoner made any complaint, and I considered his complaint groundless.

The registers and accounts were in a proper state. As mentioned in the last Report the food and other stores are supplied by public contract.

The net average cost per prisoner last year (exclusive of any charge for rent or repairs) was between 21*l.* and 22*l.*, which is about the general average in England.

The general result of the inspection was creditable to Mr. Sims (the governor) and to the other officers.

DERBY.—BOROUGH LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected 9th September 1850.]

Since my last Report (dated August 1849) the ventilation has been improved by cleansing the flues and openings, and the allowance of malt liquor, as part of the food, has been discontinued.

Except that one of the rooms wanted whitewashing the place was clean.

At the time of my visit there were two prisoners.

At my next inspection I hope to be able to report that measures have been taken for building a new lock-up house.

LONDON:
Printed by William Clowes and Sons, Stamford Street,
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

SIXTEENTH REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTORS

APPOINTED,

UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT 5 & 6 WILL. IV. c. 38,

TO VISIT THE DIFFERENT

PRISONS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

III.—SOUTHERN AND WESTERN DISTRICT.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY W. CLOWES & SONS, STAMFORD STREET,
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
1851.

[1346]

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SIXTEENTH REPORT OF THE INSPECTORS OF PRISONS.

III.—SOUTHERN AND WESTERN DISTRICT.

TO THE RIGHT HON. SIR GEORGE GREY, BART.,
Secretary of State for the Home Department.

SIR, Westbourne Street, 28th February, 1851.

I BEG leave to submit to you my Annual Report upon the state of the Prisons in the District under my Inspection, in conformity with the provisions of the 5th and 6th William IV., cap. 38.

In so doing I beg to call your attention to the insufficient means possessed by the greater number of the prisons here reported upon, for carrying out such a system of prison discipline as that recommended by the Committee of the House of Commons, in the last Session of Parliament.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

JOHN G. PERRY,

Inspector of Prisons.

REPORTS ON PRISONS

IN THE

SOUTHERN AND WESTERN DISTRICT.

REPORTS ON PRISONS

IN THE

SOUTHERN AND WESTERN DISTRICT.

ANGLESEY.

BEAUMARIS.—COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Prison Buildings.

THIS prison, which has undergone no alteration for several years past, occupies a small plot of ground in the middle of the town. On the left side of the entrance hall, which is unnecessarily spacious when regarded with reference to the extent of the prison, is a large room used for the meetings of the magistrates, the apartments of the keeper being on the left. The hall is shut off from the prison by a barred iron partition, through which, as the outer door is constantly open, air is very freely admitted into the interior of the building. The prison consists of three wings: that to the west contains, on the ground floor, a reception-ward for men, a similar cell for women, now used as a washhouse, but which will be restored to its former use in a short time, as a more convenient washhouse is about to be built; a day-room and airing-yard for male debtors; and on the upper floor seven apartments for male debtors, the hospital, and store for oakum.

The south wing contains on the ground floor a refractory-cell with a tiled floor, in which prisoners are kept only by day—it is not dark, and in point of situation is one of the best in the prison; also a day-room and airing-yard for prisoners before trial, in which the only untried male prisoner was confined; and the day-room of convicted prisoners not sentenced to labour, of whom there were three at the time of my visit. On the ground floor of this division is the chapel, partitioned in a radiated form for prisoners of the several classes. The south wing in the upper floor is devoted to a bath-room, a room for the turnkey, and eight cells for untried prisoners and misdemeanants. The cells are paved with tiles, and have hammocks and bedding, including sheets. The ground floor of the east wing comprises the cook-house, two rooms for females, the first being a day-room, and the second, which was

formerly the bath, being unappropriated. The other side of the same passage contains a day-room for convicted prisoners sentenced to hard labour, including summary convictions; in this room five men were engaged in picking oakum. This wing, on the upper floor, contains four cells for women and the remaining five for men.

It will be seen from the above description how inconveniently contiguous are the apartments of the male and female prisoners in the wing last described, which is known as the house of correction. So closely are they placed, indeed, that there would be no difficulty in the prisoners of either sex holding conversation after the locking-up hour, with scarcely any risk of detection.

The whole accommodation amounts to 20 cells for male and 4 for female prisoners, exclusive of the debtors' rooms, the greater number of which, not being required for that class, might be transferred to the criminal prisoners. None of the cells are warmed, but there are small fireplaces in the day-rooms. The cells are generally of sufficient size to admit of their being certified for separate confinement, if they were only provided with the means of artificial heat, which is scarcely less necessary in their present application, as the stone walls in the humid climate of Wales must be very damp and cold, especially in the winter season. In the present construction of the prison there exists no power of separating the different classes of female prisoners from each other.

The prison appears to be well drained, and its records would not appear to support the opinion of its unhealthiness which has been sometimes expressed, although certainly its site in point of elevation does not seem to have been well selected. From the defective supervision arising from the small number of officers, attempts at escape are likely to be made, but the wall being surmounted by large loose pieces of slate placed vertically in its whole circuit, it would probably be found impossible to scale it.

Prisoners on the day of Inspection.

The following table exhibits the prisoners present on the day of inspection, with the particulars of their offences and sentences:—

1. *Prisoners for Trial.*

Initials of Name.	Age.	Specific Offence charged.	Date of Commitment.	Whether for Trial at Assizes or Sessions.
			1850	
J. H. .	56	Stealing rope .	27 May .	Sessions.
J. J. .	30	Stealing a watch, money, and a shawl.	10 April .	,,
C. W..	22	Stealing boots .	28 May .	,,

2. *Convicted Prisoners.*

Initials of Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
			1849	1850		
J. B. .	21	Four pair of shoes, 26 lasts, 1 piece of leather, 1 knife, 1 nipper, 1 radler, 2 files, 2 balls of thread, and 1 key.	1 Dec.	1 Jan.	Sessions	12 calendar months and hard labour.
R. H. .	18	Ditto ditto	Ditto .	Ditto .	Ditto	6 calendar months, hard labour, and twice whipped.
			1850			
H. H. .	21	One pair of shoes, 1 pair of half-boots, 1 pair of trowsers, 1 pair of stockings, and 1 silk handkerchief.	20 Feb.	20 Mar.	Assizes	12 calendar months and hard labour.
T. P. .	61	For forging a promissory note for the payment of £26. 4*s.* 5*d.*	12 Mar.	20 Mar.	Assizes	6 calendar months' imprisonment.
			1849			
A. P. .	36	One shirt . .	13 Nov.	1 Jan.	Sessions	12 months and hard labour.
			1850			
C. T. .	29	One pair of shoes.	12 Feb.	20 Mar.	Assizes	3 calendar months and hard labour.

All slept in separate cells on the previous night, except those located in one large room.

The persons of the prisoners were not deficient in cleanliness, considering the employment in which they were engaged. The wards and cells were clean and orderly. Cleanliness.

The clothing of the prisoners has been improved since the last inspection, all convicted prisoners being supplied with prison clothing, with the exception of caps, which have not yet been procured in sufficient quantity. The bedding is of a superior character to that found in most of the Welsh prisons. Eight of the cells have hammocks, the remainder being furnished with bedsteads, and each prisoner has a bed, a bolster, a pair of sheets, a pair of blankets, and a quilt. The cells have no tables, but each is provided with a seat. Clothing and Bedding.

The prisoners very generally complained that they have not their stipulated allowance of meat in the soup. On inquiry I found the complaint to be well founded, as the meat of which the soup is made on one day is given to the prisoners as solid meat on the next. The diet is besides objectionable, on the ground of the Diet.

same amount of food being given to all prisoners for terms exceeding 14 days, whatever may be the length of their confinement, whereby an unnecessary quantity of food is given to the short-sentenced prisoners. The dietary has not received the sanction of the Secretary of State, as required by law.

Health.] The surgeon to the prison sees every prisoner twice a week, and examines each on admission and discharge; he also visits every sick prisoner daily, or as much oftener as may be required by the nature of his case. The state of health of each prisoner, on his reception, is recorded in the same way, as well as his state on discharge. The surgeon makes a monthly inspection of every prisoner, and sees those in solitary confinement daily. He has never been called upon to make any return of the number of cases of sickness. With reference to the remarks in the last Report, the surgeon states that the dirty condition of the prisoners arose from the want of a sufficient bath, which has now been supplied, and adds, that in fifteen years he has never seen a single prisoner infested with vermin, nor any one affected with fever or itch after his admission. From the want of sufficient accommodation, it is the custom of the magistrates in all cases of advanced pregnancy to apply for the prisoner's pardon:—a fact sufficiently proving the want of proper accommodation for the sick.

Moral and Religious Instruction. The chaplain reads prayers twice a week, and performs full service and preaches a sermon on Sundays, Christmas-day, and Good Friday; he sometimes administers the sacrament, but not regularly. The service is performed alternately in English and Welsh. Thec haplain sometimes converses with prisoners separately, and invariably does so on their admission and discharge. The prison library contains bibles, prayer-books, and tracts, but the History of England is the only book of general information allowed. The only schoolmaster is also the only turnkey; it may therefore be said that neither duty can be properly performed.

Punishments. The punishments are few in number, and the offences for which they have been inflicted in the last year have not been of any serious importance. No prisoner was in punishment on the last day of inspection.

Labour. The only kinds of labour practised in the prison are the picking of oakum and breaking stones; the former is slightly remunerative, the junk being purchased for 12*s.* per cwt., and the oakum sold for 25*s.* per cwt; upon the latter, however, the balance is against the prison, as the rough stone is bought for 1*s.* 6*d.* per ton, and the broken stones sold for 6*d.*

Expenditure. The total expenditure for the past year amounted to 575*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* The following are the principal items in round numbers:—

	£.
Prison Diet.	92
Clothing and Bedding . . .	32
Fuel and Light.	24
Officers' Salaries	275

The receipts for the same period amounted to 162*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*, of which above 153*l.* were received from the Treasury, for the maintenance of convicted prisoners and the removal of transports. The staff of the prison consists of the governor, chaplain, surgeon, matron, one turnkey (also the schoolmaster), chaplain's clerk, and clerk to the Visiting Justices.

General Observations.

The prison presents great capabilities of improvement. By the conversion of the day-rooms into cells, and the proper warming of the prison, a sufficient number of cells capable of being certified might be procured, in which the ordinary number of prisoners might be placed in separate confinement. Whether this be done or not, the appointment of another turnkey and schoolmaster appears to be absolutely necessary to maintain proper discipline, and to afford any effectual instruction to the prisoners.

Since the adoption of a prison dress for convicted prisoners, no allowance of clothes is made to them on discharge; but as they are not clothed by the prison previously to trial, their own clothing wears out in prison. An allowance is, however, made to discharged prisoners, varying from a shilling to half-a-crown, and if they are going to England their passage is paid to Liverpool in addition. One prisoner, who lived at Whitby, and had been in custody on a charge of murder, received 13*s.* or 14*s.* to find his way home.

The total number of prisoners in confinement in each of the last two years will be seen by the following table:—

TOTAL Number of Prisoners in Confinement in the course of the Years ending at Michaelmas 1849 and 1850.

	1849			1850		
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Male.	Fem.	Total.
CRIMINAL PRISONERS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year :—						
Prisoners for Trial	2	..	2	1	..	1
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions .	4	2	6	9	1	10
Summarily Convicted	3	2	5	4	..	4
Received under Commitments and who have not been in the Custody of other Governors :—						
Prisoners for Trial	20	9	29	28	8	36
Rendered in Court for Trial . .	2	..	2	..	1	1
Summarily Convicted	51	3	54	28	6	34
Committed for Examination, but afterwards Discharged, not being fully Committed	1	..	1	1	..	1
Total of Criminals .	83	16	99	71	16	87
DEBTORS.						
In Custody at the Commencement of the Year	..	1	1	1	..	1
Admitted in the course of the Year .	3	..	3	7	1	8
Total of Debtors and Criminals.	86	17	103	79	17	96
Deaths in the course of the Year . .	..	3	3	..	..	..
Prisoners pardoned on Medical grounds	..	1	1	..	..	..
Greatest Number at any one time :—						
Criminal Prisoners	24	6	30	25	4	29
Debtors	2	1	3	4	1	5

MENAI BRIDGE.—LOCK-UP HOUSE.

This lock-up house has been built within the last few years. It is of stone, and contains two cells, also paved with stone, the one measuring 9 feet by 6 feet, the other 10 feet 6 in. by 6 feet. In the larger cell there is a supply of bedding in a very damp condition. No bedding at all is allowed in the other cell; but an iron bedstead, planked over, occupies one-third of it. The windows are glazed, but there is no artificial warmth or ventilation; the cells are consequently very damp and cold. The cells are secure, and are approached by a passage which is also well secured. No proper records are kept of the number of persons committed; the number, however, was certainly very small, and included no females.

The cells are so damp at all times of the year, that the bedding

is taken out daily to prevent it from being entirely spoiled. The keeper's apartments are drier than the cells; but in wet weather the rain beats through the walls, owing probably to the bad quality of the mortar. The keeper has an allowance of 10*l.* per annum from the County, which, with his apartments, are his only emoluments.

BRECONSHIRE.

BRECON.—COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Discreditable state of the Prison buildings.

It is my painful duty again to report that nothing has been done to improve the accommodation of this prison, notwithstanding the repeated representations made by the Inspectors of Prisons, during more than ten years, of its utter inadequacy for legally carrying out the sentences of the Courts, and notwithstanding also the repeated admissions of the Visiting Magistrates, and of the Quarter Sessions, of the truth of those representations. As long ago as the year 1839 a presentation made by four Justices of the Peace, stating that "the Gaol and House of Correction for the county were insufficient, inconvenient, and otherwise inadequate to give effect to the rules and regulations prescribed by the Act 4 Geo. IV., cap. 64," after having been duly advertised in the newspapers, was taken into consideration by the Court of Quarter Sessions; "and the justices assembled at these sessions, having taken such presentment into consideration, resolved that such presentment is well founded, and that there is a necessity for the erection of a new Gaol and House of Correction for this county."

The above resolution having been in the mean time regularly advertised in three newspapers, it was unanimously resolved, at the Epiphany Sessions of 1841, that a spot of land between the castle and the Priory would be the best site for a new prison, and such site was accordingly strongly recommended by seven magistrates, three of whom were Visiting Justices. Notwithstanding, however, the resolution was negatived at the succeeding Midsummer sessions.

In November of the same year a letter was addressed by the Secretary of State to the magistrates, calling their attention to the absolute necessity of providing (under the 4 Geo. IV., cap. 64) a competent number of cells adapted to solitary confinement, and stating his opinion that all prisoners sentenced by Court to solitary confinement should be placed in a light and well-ventilated cell, provided with a seat, and the means of communicating with an officer of the prison afforded to them in cases of illness; that they should be visited daily by the chaplain, governor, and surgeon, who should record their having done so in their respective Journals, or the reasons for any omission; that they should be provided with

books, and those not able to read be visited by the schoolmaster to give them elementary instruction.

To this communication the Visiting Justices replied, that they had given their best attention to the recommendations of the Secretary of State, and that, as far as the accommodation of the county gaol would permit, the regulations recommended in this letter, as to the treatment of prisoners sentenced to solitary confinement, should be adopted.

Upon this I need only remark, that the prison never did contain any such accommodation as that alluded to by the Secretary of State; that no attempts have since been made to provide it; that the cells are without light and ventilation; that the prisoner is not furnished with the means of communicating with an officer of the prison; that he is not daily visited by the chaplain and surgeon; and that, so far from his being instructed by the schoolmaster in his cell, no such officer as a schoolmaster has ever formed part of the staff of the prison.

At the Michaelmas Sessions of 1841 a proposal to enlarge the prison, at an expense of 2000*l.*, was negatived.

In January, 1842, the Inspector of the district having conferred with the Lord Lieutenant and several of the magistrates, the question was fully discussed, and most of those present, if not all, admitted the necessity of building a new prison. Renewed advertisements were inserted in the newspapers; plans were prepared and submitted to the Secretary of State, by whom they were certified as fit for adoption: upon which the project was abandoned.

At the end of 1845 the Inspector, finding that no alteration was then contemplated, and that all the evils before complained of existed in greater force than ever, owing to the increase in the number of prisoners, again called the attention of the Secretary of State to the deficiencies of the prison, and to the continual violation of the law consequent upon such deficiencies. This representation having been brought under the notice of the Court of Quarter Sessions, a committee was appointed to take the whole subject of the gaol into consideration. The result was the following Report, made to the adjourned sessions held 11th of February, 1846:—

"Your Committee directed their attention in the first instance to the present building, which comprises, for the accommodation of prisoners 22 cells with 4 yards, also apartments for debtors with a yard attached, and apartments for the governor and turnkeys.

"The governor having suggested to the Committee, that, if an additional portion of ground were obtained on the east side of the prison, full accommodation might be obtained for all the purposes of this county by retaining and altering the present building, and by building 48 new cells:

"Your Committee, being impressed with the importance of the governor's suggestion, as a mode of saving a great expense to the county, and your Committee feeling desirous of being in a situation to submit some

specific plan to the magistrates assembled at the adjourned sessions, requested the attendance of Mr. Evans, the architect, of Abergavenny, to examine the state of the prison, and to furnish plans and estimates for effecting the objects in view. Your Committee are now prepared to submit such plans to the Court, and, having examined them, they feel justified in recommending the same for adoption.

" Penry Williams.
" John Jones.
" Hugh Bold
" Thomas J. Powell."

" Upon this it was ordered, on the motion of the Rev. Lord Viscount Hereford, seconded by the Rev. Archdeacon Davies, ' That such Report be now received, and that the Court do proceed to examine the plans which the Committee recommended for adoption.'

" The said plans having been accordingly examined, it was resolved, ' That it appears to this Court desirable that such plans be approved of; but owing to the heavy calls upon the funds of this county now existing, and the additional demand upon the county rate for the repairs of the turnpike roads, as well as the uncertainty of the intentions of the Legislature as to the arrangements likely to be made for the purpose of defraying the expense of building prisons in general, it would be desirable to memorialise the Secretary of State for the Home Department for a further delay in the ultimate adoption of these improvements.' "

Up to the time of my recent visit nothing has been done, nor does anything appear to be in contemplation for carrying out the governor's suggestion, recommended by the committee " as a mode of saving a great expense to the county," and which appears to me to combine many and great advantages. The prison still continues to merit, and even in a greater degree than when it was written, the condemnation pronounced by the former Inspector of the district, when he stated " that it is difficult to imagine any defects which a county gaol can present as a building which are not here conspicuous."

The following list exhibits the number of prisoners present on the last day of inspection, with the particulars of their cases:—

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of Brecon on the 3rd of Sept. 1850.

Convicted Prisoners.

	Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
1	D. L.	36	Sheepstealing	1848. 17 Oct.	1849. 1 Jan.	Sessions	2 years' hard labour.
2	J. S.	19	Stealing from brewery	1849. 10 Sept.	16 Oct.	,,	12 months' ,,
3	W. J.	29	Fraud	27 Dec.	1850. 1 Jan.	,,	12 ,, ,,
4	R. W.	70	Sheepstealing	19 Jan.	22 Mar.	Assizes	12 ,, ,,
5	J. M.	23	Housebreaking	27 Feb.	,,	,,	6 ,, ,,
6	J. V.	30	,,	,,	,,	,,	6 ,, ,,
7	W. W.	25	Stealing a watch	22 Mar.	,,	,,	6 ,, ,,
8	J. J.	20	Housebreaking	1850. 8 Jan.	,,	,,	7 years' transportation.
9	W. H.	23	Killing cattle	11 April	26 July	,,	15 ,, ,,
10	E. T.	24	Assault	22 Mar.	22 Mar	,,	6 months' imprisonment
11	T. J.	41	Stealing tea	9 April	9 April	Quarter Sessions.	6 ,, hard labour
12	W. J.	50	Default of sureties	7 June	7 June	Petty ,,	6 ,, imprisonment.
13	J. H.	29	Fraud	24 April	2 July	Quarter ,,	12 ,, hard labour.
14	T. L.	22					
15	W. R.	21	Riot and assault	23 May	4 ,,	,, ,,	4 ,, ,,
16	J. H.	20					
17	D. W.	30	Stealing money	,,	,,	,, ,,	4 ,, ,,
18	H. M.	61	Wilful damage	9 July	9 ,,	Petty ,,	2 ,, ,,
19	C. G.	40	Breach of reven. laws	12 ,,	12 ,,	,, ,,	12 weeks' ,,
20	T. M.	25					
21	S. B.	22					
22	W. H.	21	Riot and assault	30 May	26 ,,	Assizes	8 months' ,,
23	P. C.	20					
24	R. J.	18					
25	G. S.	18					
26	W. C.	23	Rogue and vagabond	30 July	30 ,,	Petty Sessions	2 ,, ,,
27	R. D.	19	,,	,,	,,	,, ,,	2 ,, ,,
			Females under Sentence.				
1	M. L.	35	Stealing from employer	5 Jan.	22 Mar.	Assizes	12 ,, ,,
2	M. A. P.	19	,,	4 Mar.	,,	,, ,,	12 ,, ,,
3	M. D.	19	,,	27 May.	2 July	Sessions	12 ,, ,,
4	M. E.	15	,, watches	17 July	26 July	Assizes	6 ,, ,,
5	P. H. H.	19	Vagrancy	31 Aug.	31 Aug.	Petty Sessions	14 days' ,,

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of Brecon on the 3rd of Sept. 1850.

Prisoners for Trial.

Name.	Age.	Specific Offence charged.	Date of Commitment.	Whether for Trial at Assizes or Sessions.
			1850	
J. Y.	17	Stealing clothes	4 Aug.	Sessions.
J. H.	22	,, a goose	9 ,,	,,
W. S.	32	,, a waistcoat	26 ,,	,,
		Females.	1850.	
E. P.	48	Robbery with violence	29 July.	,,
M. W.	35	Stealing clothes	26 Aug.	,,

The following table exhibits the total number of prisoners in confinement in the years ending at Michaelmas 1849 and 1850 :—

TOTAL Number of Prisoners in Confinement in the course of the Years ending at Michaelmas 1849 and 1850.

	1849			1850		
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Male.	Fem.	Total.
CRIMINAL PRISONERS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year:—						
Prisoners for Trial	4	..	4	6	..	6
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions	13	..	13	13	2	15
Summarily Convicted	8	..	8	4	3	7
Received under Commitments and who have not been in the Custody of other Governors:—						
Prisoners for Trial	44	7	51	40	13	53
Rendered in Court for Trial	6	1	7	5	..	5
Summarily Convicted	93	11	104	97	22	119
Committed for Examination, but afterwards Discharged, not being fully Committed	7	..	7	2	..	2
Total of Criminals	175	19	194	167	40	207
DEBTORS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year	6	..	6	3	..	3
Admitted in the course of the Year	13	1	14	10	3	13
Total of Debtors and Criminals	194	20	214	180	43	223
Deaths in the course of the Year	1	..	1	..	..	..
Lunatic Prisoners in the Year	1	..	1	1	..	1
Greatest Number at any one time:—						
Criminal Prisoners	8	..	8	5	..	5
Debtors	..	..	..	..	..	..

The wards appeared to be clean, as also the cells, as far as it is possible to see into them. Clothing and Bedding.

The bedding is very sufficient, except that no sheets are allowed; this, however, seems to be consistent with the national custom—even respectable people in most parts of Wales, as I am informed, not being in the habit of making use of them. Prison clothing is allowed to convicted prisoners, but those before trial wear their own.

The diet was certified by the Secretary of State in 1844, and is as follows:— Diet.

1st CLASS.

For Prisoners for 14 Days and under.

Daily { Breakfast . . 1 pint of Gruel and 8 oz. of Bread.
Dinner . . . 8 oz. of Bread.
Supper . . . 1 pint of Gruel and 8 oz. of Bread.

Note.—The Gruel to be made of 2 oz. of Oatmeal per pint.

2nd Class.

For Prisoners confined for periods from 14 *Days to* 2 *Months.*

Sunday	Breakfast	1 pint of Gruel and 8 oz. of Bread.
Monday	Dinner	½ lb. of Potatoes, 6 oz. of Meat, & 8 oz. of Bread.
Wednesday, Friday	Supper	1 pint of Gruel and 8 oz. of Bread.
Tuesday	Breakfast	1 pint of Gruel and 8 oz. of Bread.
Thursday	Dinner	½ lb. of Potatoes and 8 oz. of Bread.
Saturday	Supper	1 pint of Gruel and 8 oz. of Bread.

3rd Class.

For Prisoners for longer terms, and destitute Debtors.

Same as that for Class 2, with the addition of ½ lb. of potatoes daily at dinner.

Health. The surgeon attends twice a week, or oftener if required; he is not called upon to examine prisoners on admission, nor are there any reception-cells in which they could be detained for such examination. He is not required to see and examine any prisoners who do not apply to be seen on account of illness, nor is this practice restricted to those who are engaged in prison occupations, but it is extended also to prisoners in solitary confinement by a sentence of court and by prison punishments. There was no sickness at the time of my visit.

Moral and Religious Instruction. The chaplain attends five days in each week, at nine or one o'clock. The Sunday duty consists of two full services, one of which is followed by a sermon. On week-days select prayers are read from the Liturgy, and the Lessons and Psalms for the day, such service occupying about 20 minutes, after which the chaplain sees the prisoners in classes for religious instruction and elementary scholastic teaching.

There being no schoolmaster employed, the prisoners make little progress; those who read Welsh are allowed Welsh books, but do not receive any instruction in that language.

Punishments. The punishments arise chiefly out of the defects of the discipline, being generally inflicted for breaches of the rule of silence, whenever those infractions are discovered; as, however, there can be no proper supervision maintained, the greater number of those offences are committed with impunity. Some punishments have been inflicted on prisoners for pilfering bread from each other—an offence to which also their improper proximity gives occasion.

Labour. There is no labour performed in the prison in the summer season, except that of the treadmill; but the demands for stone in the repair of the county roads gives occasion to the employment of some prisoners during a part of the year in stone-breaking. The latter occupation, like the former, is quite unproductive; as the expense of conveyance is often as great as the profit arising from breaking the stones. Nevertheless the governor is of opinion that stone-breaking is the best employment for those prisoners who have been engaged in agriculture (by far the larger number), and that

it is not open to many of the objections which apply to the use of the treadwheel.

The treadmill is placed in a very bad situation, being built, as it were, into the boundary wall, and the space occupied by prisoners employed upon it is very confined and oppressive. In summer the work on the wheel begins at half-past six, and is continued until eight,—begins again at ten, and is continued till twelve,—begins again at one, and continues until six, at one spell. The space in which the wheel is placed measures only 10 feet 2 inches in length, and from the convexity of the wheel to the front wall only 3 feet 8 inches. The only supply of air is admitted through 2 small windows, measuring 16 inches by 11 inches, (only one of which leads into the open air,) and the door, measuring 6 feet by 2 feet 8 inches, with a grating over it that measures 2 feet by 1 foot. It has been often suggested that the enlargement of the door would render the place more supportable; but even this simple expedient has not been adopted.

Staff.

The staff includes the governor, chaplain, surgeon, matron, and two turnkeys, the instruction of the prisoners by a schoolmaster not being provided for.

Books and Expenditure.

The expenditure for the last year has amounted to 820*l.* and included the following principal items in round numbers:—

	£.
Prison diet	172
,, clothing	48
Fuel and light	41
Salaries	430

The receipts in the same period have been 151*l.*, of which 148*l.* have been paid by the Government for the maintenance of prisoners and the removal of convicts.

The registers of the governor are very well kept, but the accounts of expenditure are not within his department. The contracts too for provisions for the use of the gaol are made by the magistrates at the Shire-hall.

Debtors.

The class of debtors have a larger space devoted to them, in proportion to their numbers, than the criminal prisoners; but the arrangements for their separation and classification are quite as defective and objectionable. The rooms occupied by day, by male and female debtors, are not only within sight of each other, but they open into one passage, which is used by debtors of both sexes; and as there is no supervision over them, they can associate at pleasure, although such association is nominally forbidden by the rules. The airing-yard is common to both sexes, as is also the water-closet; nor does the evil end here, for the visitors of all the debtors, who are not subject like themselves to punishment for the infraction of prison rules, have the same facilities of intercourse. The debtors committed by County Courts have lately become more numerous; but no corresponding increase has taken place

in those committed under execution. The defective accommodation of the prison leads to the daily and habitual violation of the most salutary provisions of the law, in proof of which I may mention that there is scarcely a night in the year in which many male prisoners do not sleep by two in a cell, and therefore, as each cell only contains one bed, by two in a bed.

BRECON.—COUNTY AND BOROUGH LOCK-UP HOUSE.

There being no county lock-up house within the two hundreds or districts of Merthyr and Penkelly, an arrangement has been made with the borough magistrates for the lock-up house of the borough of Brecon being appropriated for the reception of county prisoners, in compensation for which each of the hundreds alluded to contributes 30*l.* per annum towards the salary of the resident superintendent—an arrangement which is found to be advantageous to all parties.

The building possesses the common fault of being exceedingly damp, from having a level below that of the surrounding earth. At the time of my inspection, although in the summer season, the water was running down the walls. There are 2 cells, 14 feet by 12, and 9 feet high, paved with stone; and a third, called the dark cell, having a borrowed light from one of the others, is 9 feet square. There were originally fire-grates in both the larger cells, but a prisoner having pulled out one of the bars and nearly effected his escape by means of it, that grate has been removed, but the other still remains. There are so many bars in the cells as to encourage attempts at escape or suicide. A short time previously to my visit, a woman had attempted the latter by tying herself by the neck to the grate by one of her garters. The neglect of means of security is strikingly shown in the window of the principal cell, which has the appearance of being secured by bars; but upon examination it is seen that the bars are only fastened to the frame of the window, and are not let into the wall, so that, instead of giving strength to, they derive all their support from the window-frame. A man who conducted me over the premises observed, with as much simplicity as justice, that the building was nearly as bad as the county gaol, and quite unfit to put a Christian into. It should have been mentioned that each of the large cells contains a barrack-bed and some coverlets for the prisoners, but no bedding of any other kind.

Much improvement would be effected in the salubrity of this building by taking away 2 or 3 feet of earth all round it, and by making a good drain, which does not exist at present.

In the year preceding my visit 15 county prisoners and 70 from the borough were confined here, of whom 15 were females.

39 males and 7 females of this number were committed to the county gaol for trial, and 24 were discharged. The longest time for which any prisoner has been detained therein has been 3 days, and 16 prisoners have sometimes been simultaneously confined.

CRICKHOWEL.—COUNTY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

This lock-up house consists of a superintendent's house and 4 cells. The house is upon a larger scale than most of the similar establishments in this county. Two of the cells are situate on the ground floor, and 2 above those on the ground floor measure 12 feet by 7 feet 8 inches, and are 6 feet 6 inches high, paved with brick. There is an iron bedstead in each, with the necessary bedding, but so dreadfully damp as to be unfit for use. It has been attempted to counteract this by a stove built on one side, but this, although it consumes a great deal of fuel, does not dry or warm the cells. The windows of the cells are glazed, but the glass is generally broken. Nothing can possibly be worse contrived than the approach to these cells, which is by two flights of steps down which it would be dangerous to take a refractory prisoner. If the lower cells are to continue to be used, an approach should be made to them from the lower road at the back of the building, and an efficient mode of warming them should be adopted. There are two cells above those described, which are approached through the house; they are about 8 feet 6 inches by 7 feet 8 inches, have glazed windows, iron bedsteads and bedding, and are paved with stone; these are drier and warmer than the lower cells, though heated by the same stove; they are not possessed of the same strength as the others, but, as the superintendent sleeps immediately over them, there is little risk of an outbreak.

The superintendent's house is scarcely less damp than the cells, and at the time of my inspection the paper was actually dropping off the reeking walls. The following return states the number of prisoners received in the year:—

"Twenty male prisoners—6 committed for trial, and 14 fined and discharged; 14 deserters, on march for trial; 3 female prisoners—2 committed, and 1 discharged. Greatest number of prisoners at one time, 5. Longest time of confinement, 4 days."

Another station with 4 cells was built two years ago at Brynmawn, eight miles from Crickhowel, the same distance from Abergavenny, and about twelve from Merthyr; but I have not visited it.

DEVYNNOCK.—COUNTY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

This building has a very respectable appearance, being built of stone, but it is open to many objections, some of which would admit of an easy remedy. It was built in 1844, and contains

a residence for a policeman and his family, besides two cells for prisoners. The officer's quarters are very confined, although occupying two floors, for the area of his house is precisely that of the cells beneath. There are two cells, measuring 8 feet 8 inches by 6 feet 10 inches, and about 8 feet in height, having a barrack-bed in each, and an open fireplace. The floors are of stone, and the walls exceedingly damp, owing in great measure to the earth which has been excavated for the building coming up to the level of the top of the cells. The bedding is very good, but at the time of my inspection, in warm weather, was so wet that water might have been wrung out of it, nor were the officer's quarters much drier than the cells. The cells open into an airing-yard by wooden doors, above which are gratings and glass windows. The airing-yard is 19 feet by 8 feet, very damp, and unsafe for prisoners to be trusted in, as any moderate climber could easily get over the wall. In the corner is a privy without any drainage from it.

BUILTH.—COUNTY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

This building is in the outskirts of the town of Builth, and, being upon the borders of Radnorshire, is used as a lock-up house for the two counties, with a view to which reciprocation the magistrates resident in the neighbourhood are generally in the commission for both counties. It consists of a residence for the superintendent, and two cells for prisoners, measuring 8 feet 8 inches by 7 feet 2 inches, with a height of 8 feet: each cell contains a bed and a sufficient supply of bed-clothes; there is a fireplace in each cell, and a small grated window, more calculated for ventilation than for the admission of light. No allowance is made to the keeper for coal, either for himself or the prisoners, although, from the dampness of the situation, it is necessary to burn a good deal in the cells. The number of prisoners occasionally confined here has been considerable; on one occasion it amounted to 12. The total numbers in the several recent years have been as follows:—in 1844, 144; in 1845, 74; in 1846, 46; in 1847, 47; in 1848, 39.

The whole expense of the maintenance of this lock-up house is paid by the county of Brecon. James Powell, the keeper, receives, in addition to his annual stipend, 9*d.* per mile for the conveyance of prisoners to Brecon County Gaol, and 8*d.* for their removal to Presteign: the reason of the difference is not explained. The prisoners are generally required to walk, which is a most insecure mode of transit; but when they refuse to walk, the superintendent is obliged to pay for a cart for their conveyance at his own expense.

CARDIGANSHIRE.

CARDIGAN.—COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Prison Buildings.

THE construction of this inconvenient, ill-built, and insecure prison having been minutely described in the 14th Report, it is only necessary to add with reference to it, that the frequent and daring escapes which have continually occurred have induced the magistrates to place iron gates at the top of the staircases leading to the sleeping cells, as recommended in my Report, with a view to afford some security against similar occurrences. It must be observed, however, that this precaution is only partially effectual. By excluding the prisoners from their sleeping cells during the day, it undoubtedly prevents in a great measure the successful adoption of means for breaching the walls of the cells, but all the other walls of the prison are so weakly built as to afford temptation for similar attempts, as was shown in the most recent escape, which was effected by breaking through the west wall of the tread-wheel room, a feat which was accomplished by two prisoners in twenty minutes. The drainage of the prison is still as defective as ever, as is evinced by the dampness of the passages and cells, and by the water lying in the airing-yards even in summer. As at my previous visit, I found some of the airing-yards so damp as to be unfit for occupation, notwithstanding that the summer had been unusually dry. It would afford some mitigation of these defects that gutters, similar to those in the debtors' yard, should be made in the other yards, and that they should all be flagged.

Prisoners on the day of Inspection.

The following list furnishes information relative to the prisoners present on the day of inspection.

Prisoners in the Gaol and House of Correction of Cardigan on the 23rd of September, 1850.

Convicted Prisoners.

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
T. B.	17	Stealing a horse	22 Oct., 1849	1 Jan. 1850	Sessions . . .	10 calendar months' hard labour.
W. H.	18	,, a pair of trowsers .	6 Feb., 1850	14 March ,,	Assizes . . .	1 year's ,,
J. E.	29	,, various articles of apparel.	25 April ,,	2 July ,,	Sessions . . .	4 calendar months' ,,
D. J.	17	,, a watch.	21 May ,,	2 ,, ,,	Ditto . . .	6 ,, ,,
T. R.	59	,, a certain quantity of hay.	15 July ,,	23 ,, ,,	Assizes . . .	6 ,, ,,
J.	20	,, a certain quantity of barley.	23 ,, ,,	23 ,, ,,	Ditto . . .	2 years' ,,
D. E.	66	Assaulting the police in the execution of their duty.	7 Aug. ,,	. .	Summarily . .	Fined 5*l.*, or be imprisoned for 2 calendar months.
D. E.	38	Assault	9 Sept. ,,	. .	Ditto . . .	Fined 5*l.*, or ditto.
J. E.	38	Assaulting the police in the execution of their duty.	9 ,,	. .	Ditto . . .	Fined 20*l.*, or 1 calendar month's hard labour.
	29	,, ,,	9 ,, ,,	. .	Ditto . . .	Fined 10*l.*, or ditto.

Prisoners for Trial.

Name.	Age.	Specific Offence charged.	Date of Commitment.	Whether for Trial at Assizes or Sessions.	Sentence.
*M. M.	31	Feloniously killing and slaying one John Bolitho	26 July 1850	Assizes	. .
†S. J.	34	Stealing certain moneys and chattels	21 August ,,	Sessions . . .	. .
‡H. H.	42	. .	. .	By County Court of Machynlleth.	40 days

* Male. † Female. ‡ Debtor.

The following table shows the total number of prisoners in confinement in each of the last two years :—

TOTAL Number of Prisoners in Confinement in the course of the Years ending at Michaelmas 1849 and 1850.

	1849			1850		
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Male.	Fem.	Total.
CRIMINAL PRISONERS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year :—						
Prisoners for Trial	4	1	5	1	1	2
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions .	5	..	5	6	..	6
Summarily Convicted	7	1	8	3	..	3
Contempt of Court	..	..	..	1	..	1
Received under Commitments and who have not been in the Custody of other Governors :—						
Prisoners for Trial	21	5	26	25	3	28
Rendered in Court for Trial . .	7	1	8	2	1	3
Summarily Convicted	72	3	75	66	7	73
Committed for Examination, but afterwards discharged, not being fully Committed	3	..	3	..	..	..
Total of Criminals .	119	11	130	104	12	116
DEBTORS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Admitted in the course of the Year .	7	..	7	1	..	1
Total of Debtors and Criminals.	126	11	137	105	12	117
Deaths in the course of the Year . .	..	..	..	1	..	1
Greatest Number at any one time :—						
Criminal Prisoners	19	7	26	30	3	33
Debtors	3	..	3	1	..	1

Cleanliness

The provisions for personal cleanliness are defective, as the prisoners cannot wash separately in their cells, and are therefore obliged to do so together in the yards. There is a bath in the prison, but it has not been used within the recollection of the governor, extending over many years. The cells and passages were tolerably clean.

Clothing and Bedding.

No prison dress is allowed to untried prisoners, unless their own clothes are quite unfit for use, or are required to be produced as evidence. All the convicted prisoners are clothed throughout. The cleanly and economical custom of allowing sheets to prisoners has not been adopted here, but in other respects the bedding is sufficient; although it is impossible to approve of the practice of placing several prisoners to sleep together on a barrack-bed, virtually under the same clothing.

Diet. The dietary of the prison, which was objected to in the last Report, has been changed for that recommended by the Secretary of State in December, 1849; and it is satisfactory to receive from the governor an assurance to the same effect as that I have repeatedly received elsewhere, that the adoption of the latter dietary has had the effect of diminishing, and, indeed, almost of extinguishing, the commitments for vagrancy. As long as the food furnished to prisoners is the same whatever may be the length of their sentences, the diet of such a prison will act as an invitation to this class of offenders; but it is found that a graduated dietary, in which the lowest possible amount of food, consistent with the maintenance of health, is given to short-sentenced prisoners, operates far more powerfully than treadmills, or any other kind of labour, in discouraging them. The bread, unlike that in most Welsh prisons, is made partly of wheat and partly of barley. The average cost of the dietary is 2*s*. $2\frac{3}{8}$*d*. per week for each prisoner.

Health. The surgeon is required to attend at the prison twice a week, or more frequently on emergencies. Since my last inspection he has adopted a book in which to enter the medicines prescribed; but as some misapprehension appeared still to exist as to the precise manner in which the particulars of cases and the medicines prescribed are required to be recorded, and as no rules exist for his guidance, I called his attention to these defects, which he readily undertook to remedy. The epidemic of cholera in 1849 did not extend to this town or prison.

Moral and Religious Instruction. The chaplains attend three times a week; on Sunday performing Divine Service and preaching a sermon, and on other days conversing privately with some of the prisoners. No schoolmaster is employed, neither are any books provided for such prisoners as can read, except Bibles and Prayer-books, in the English and Welsh languages.

Punishments. Punishment for prison offences generally consists in stopping a part of the food, and confining offenders in a dark cell. Two men were placed in irons last year for an attack upon the turnkey, the magistrates' order for which was recorded in due form, specifying the time (14 days) for which the restraint was to be continued.

Labour. The only labour performed is that of the treadmill, and this is unproductive. Such prisoners as are not employed on the treadmill are occasionally engaged in picking oakum, but this is not done with any regularity.

The staff of the prison consists of the governor, chaplain, surgeon, matron, and a single turnkey. The late governor, after 31 years' service, has been superannuated on a pension of 10*l*. per annum. The cooking, which has hitherto been performed by a person hired for the purpose, is in future to be done by a prisoner without any supervision,—a most objectionable arrangement.

The expenditure in the last year has amounted to 621*l.* 15*s.*, the following being its principal items :—

	£.
Diet of prisoners	160
Clothing and bedding	30
Fuel and light	33
Salaries	214
Repairs	30

The receipts have only reached 5*l.*, exclusive of the payments of the Treasury for prisoners' maintenance and removal of transports.

The provisions are purchased by contract :— Expend

Bread, 16*s.* per cwt.
Meat, 4*d.* per lb. ; Beef weighed without, and Mutton with bone.
Oatmeal, 11*d.* per quart.

Although this prison receives debtors from all the counties, very few are committed. The county courts have only furnished one within the year. The accommodation for this class is therefore ample, and when not required for them is used by criminal prisoners picking oakum. Debtors

I have still to call attention to the fact that no rules for the management of the prison and conduct of officers have been certified by the Secretary of State; neither has the new dietary, although quite unobjectionable, received the sanction of the same authority. General servatio

The turnkey has no room provided for him, a deficiency which might easily be remedied by appropriating to that purpose a part of the entrance hall, which is now quite useless. It would also add much to the efficiency of this officer that he should be dressed in uniform, by which he would be distinguished from the untried prisoners. A prison van should be provided for the conveyance of criminals to Aberayron for trial at the Quarter-sessions. It is impossible that the removal to and from so distant a place, in a common cart, can be effected without much risk of escape or rescue of prisoners, or without admitting improper communication taking place between them and their friends.

CARDIGAN.—LOCK-UP HOUSE AND POLICE STATION.

Adopting the suggestion in the last Report, the magistrates have converted the old gaol of Cardigan, which had long been abandoned, to the purposes of a lock-up house and police-station, affording abundant accommodation for the number of prisoners likely to be committed to it. By this separation of the lock-up house from the county gaol much advantage will be obtained, for it

sometimes happened that the officers of the gaol were called out of their beds several times in the night, to receive drunken charges, who could only be detained in those parts of the prison which were already insufficient for their proper inmates.

CARMARTHENSHIRE.

CARMARTHEN.—COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Prison Buildings. THIS prison now receives the commitments from the borough as well as those from the county, the borough gaol having been abolished. The prison buildings are inconveniently constructed, very little accommodation being obtained in proportion to the space occupied. The part devoted to male criminals is divided into two parts, one of which is called the "Trebanda," the other the "House of Correction." The trebanda is a large building coeval with the original erection of the prison, consisting of two parts, one devoted to untried prisoners, the other to the convicted. The first contains a day-room paved with stone, and exceedingly damp, except in the finest weather. There is one cell on the ground floor, for a single prisoner, and three in the gallery above, containing each 4 beds. The day-room has a fireplace, but, notwithstanding that advantage, is generally damp, from being paved with stone. The cells, on the contrary, although not artificially warmed, have brick floors and are always dry. In this part of the trebanda the cells, with one exception, have glass windows; the bedsteads are of wood, with straw mattresses and good bedding, but no sheets are allowed. The part for criminal prisoners has three cells in the gallery, one of which is taken for a store, and a very small day-room, and 2 cells below, one of which is used as an itch ward. The store-room and one of the upper cells are glazed, but the remainder are without protection from the outer air. In other respects the cells of this division are supplied in the same manner as those already described. Each of the divisions has a large airing-yard with a high wall surmounted by a chevaux-de-frise, giving it an air of security, which has been, however, proved to be fallacious. A few months before my visit a prisoner confined in the division first described, having escaped being locked into his sleeping cell, either by design or inadvertence of one of the turnkeys, was accidently discovered by the governor at the top of wall, just in time to prevent his final escape, and upon examination of the yard it was found that he had succeeded, by the aid of a piece of iron wrenched from a grate, in dislodging, raising, and conveying to the corner of the yard, in less than two hours, 53 heavy flagstones, many of them measuring 4 feet 6 inches by 2 feet, and being from 2 to 3 inches in thickness. These he had ingeniously piled on each other in a very systematic manner, forming a heap of about 5 feet in

height, from which he had easily attained the summit of the wall. The remaining accommodation for male criminals, as has been said, is in the house of correction, which faces the governor's house. The lower part of this building is so extremely damp as to be almost useless, with the exception of a small room lately made into a work-room for picking oakum, and also used for a day-room for prisoners under summary conviction. The remaining cells on this floor, although designed for prisoners, owing to their dampness are used chiefly for lumber. There is a well in one of them, which furnishes an insufficient supply of water to the prison, and is worked by a prisoner; and another is used as a refractory-cell. The upper floor contains 12 cells, which are never occupied by more than one prisoner at a time, the excess being always located in the large cells of the trebanda. They measure 9 feet 10 inches by 7 feet 2 inches, and are 9 feet high. The floors are of brick; the bedsteads of wood, with sufficient bedding, inclusive of one sheet, which, for some reason that I was unable to discover, is an advantage enjoyed by prisoners in this division which is not extended to those of the same class in the trebanda. These cells have glazed windows, but they are neither warmed nor ventilated, and, like other parts of the prison, are destitute of alarums. As no officer sleeps in this division, prisoners might easily converse from cell to cell during the night. Below the basement of this building are 2 dark cells, measuring 7 feet 3 inches square and 7 feet in height, without any warmth or even a hole for the admission of air. The only substitute they possess for a bed is a plate of iron supported by iron brackets from the wall; upon this a prisoner under punishment sleeps, sometimes for three nights, without any kind of bedding, while his system is weakened by a diet of bread and water. I cannot but regard this severity of punishment as unjustifiable and dangerous to health, perhaps even to life. The iron brackets wrenched from the wall would form dangerous weapons, and have already been used for a murderous assault upon one of the officers.

Contiguous to the house of correction is a treadmill, containing 16 divisions for prisoners, insufficiently partitioned from each other.

The cook-house adjoins the trebanda, and in it the cooking is performed by a convicted male prisoner, without any free person to overlook him. At the time of my inspection the individual upon whom this privilege was conferred was the same whose attempt at escape has been detailed above—a circumstance which is more particularly alluded to, as an illustration of the mischievous effect of employing prisoners to perform the culinary operations without supervision, instances being very common of the greatest offenders in the prison being promoted to the situation of cook, with all its privileges and opportunities, merely because they are best qualified to cook, or have suffered such long sentences as to have acquired experience during their imprisonment.

There are no reception-cells in the prison for the confinement of prisoners before their freedom from infectious disease has been ascertained by the surgeon. The prison is likewise unprovided with accommodation for misdemeanants of the first division; if any such should be in confinement, they would have the rooms and airing-yard now used by female debtors.

The females' prison is the most defective part of the whole: it consists of a single day-room, which is used as a washhouse, and for every other purpose except sleeping; the remaining accommodation consisting of 3 sleeping-rooms containing 5 beds, and another apartment in which new comers are searched. It is most especially necessary that some improvement should be made in this division. The infirmary is a detached building contiguous to the trebanda, and contains apartments for prisoners of both sexes, carefully separated from each other and approached by separate staircases. Some of the rooms in this building on the ground floor are so damp that they have never been used for any purpose, and the staircases are frequently quite wet. There are 2 airing-yards attached to the infirmary, for prisoners of either sex, and a bath, which if better placed might be used for the general purposes of the prison, there being no bath elsewhere. The drainage of the prison is very defective: the water-closets are offensive throughout, partly from the want of a sufficient fall in the drains, and partly from a deficiency of water.

The following is a list of the prisoners present on the day of inspection:—

PRISONERS in the Gaol of CARMARTHEN on the 24th of September, 1850.

Prisoners for Trial and Debtors.

Name.	Age.	Specific Offence charged.	Date of Commitment.	Whether for Trial at Assizes or Sessions.	Remarks.
J. M.	26	Stealing two ducks.	19 Aug. 1850	Sessions.	
E. G.	28	Wilful murder . .	23 Sept. ,,	Assizes.	
		DEBTORS.			
		Court Committed by.		How or why Arrested.	
J. C.		Exchequer. . . .	30 Nov. 1846	In Execution.	
B. H.		,,	18 Aug. 1848	Ditto.	
W. B.		,,	18 Apr. 1849	Ditto.	
J. L.		,,	5 Dec. ,,	Ditto.	
J. T.		,,	28 Jan. 1850	Ditto . . .	Remanded for 10 months from 23 Apr. 1850.
J. M.		,,	8 Mar. ,,	Ditto.	
T. D.		,,	6 July ,,	Ditto.	
T. J.	44	,,	12 ,, ,,	Ditto . . .	Since arrested for debt he has been committed for trial for forgery committed previous to his arrest.
M. E.		,,	19 Aug. ,,	Ditto.	
J. P.		Chancery Court. .	20 ,, ,,	Contempt of Court	
D. L.		County Court . .	14 Sept. ,,	Ditto . . .	Sentenced to 10 days' imprisonment.
J. R.		,,	17 ,, ,,	Ditto . . .	Sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment.

Convicted Prisoners.

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions or Summarily.	Sentence.
J. W.	26	Stealing money and clothes from a dwelling-house.	27 Oct. 1849	28 Dec. 1849	Sessions.	15 calendar months' hard labour.
E. D.	46	,, a sheep . . .	4 Jan. 1850	4 Jan. 1850	Ditto.	12 ditto.
D. J.	49	,, ,, . . .	,,	,,	Ditto.	18 ditto.
T. B.	27	,, wearing-apparel .	8 Feb. ,,	13 Mar. ,,	Ditto.	12 ditto.
J. C.	17	,, a watch . . .	2 Mar. ,,	,,	Ditto.	12 ditto.
J. V.	22	,, clothes and attempted prison-breach .	2 May ,,	4 July ,,	Ditto.	6 ditto.
M. J.	26	Secreting a childbirth . .	28 Mar. ,,	15 ,, ,,	Assizes.	9 ditto.
J. W.	20	Stealing a shirt . . .	25 May ,,	4 ,, ,,	Sessions.	3 ditto.
O. M.	23	,, several watches .	1 July ,,	,,	Ditto.	12 ditto.
J. W.	47	,, timber . . .	4 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto.	3 ditto.
T. G.	25	Disobeying a bastardy order	20 ,, ,,	20 ,, ,,	Summarily.	3 ditto.
H. P.	21	Assault.	3 Aug. ,,	3 Aug. ,,	Ditto.	2 ditto.
T. E.	23	Disobeying a bastardy order	13 ,, ,,	13 ,, ,,	Ditto.	3 ditto.
A. A.	51	Idle and disorderly . .	16 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto.	2 ditto.
T. E.	27	Deserting his family . .	20 ,, ,,	20 ,, ,,	Ditto.	2 ditto.
J. C.	32	Disobeying a bastardy order	2 Sept. ,,	2 Sept. ,,	Ditto.	3 ditto.

The following table shows the total number of prisoners in confinement in the last two years:—

TOTAL Number of Prisoners in Confinement in the course of the Years ending at Michaelmas 1849 and 1850.

	1849			1850		
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Male.	Fem.	Total.
CRIMINAL PRISONERS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year:—						
Prisoners for Trial	4	1	5	5	1	6
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions	6	4	10	15	2	17
Summarily Convicted	7	4	11	3	1	4
Received under Commitments and who have not been in the Custody of other Governors:—						
Prisoners for Trial	35	8	43	31	4	35
Rendered in Court for Trial	13	5	18	14	3	17
Summarily Convicted	128	21	149	115	23	138
Committed for Examination, but afterwards Discharged, not being fully Committed	9	2	11	6	..	6
Total of Criminals	202	45	247	189	34	223
DEBTORS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year	8	1	9	6	..	6
Admitted in the course of the Year	30	..	30	30	..	30
Total of Debtors and Criminals	240	46	286	225	34	259
Prisoners pardoned on Medical grounds	1	..	1	1	..	1
Greatest Number at any one time:—						
Criminal Prisoners	32	11	43	42	2	44
Debtors	10	1	11	13	..	13

Cleanliness. On reception prisoners are washed in a tub, there being no bath in the prison except that above alluded to in the infirmary, which is almost useless in its present situation, from the difficulty of obtaining water. The prisoners wash themselves daily in a tub in the yard, in the presence of each other—always highly objectionable. Their hair is cut monthly. The wards and cells of the prison are kept clean.

Clothing and Bedding. The prison clothing for the county prisoners is of cloth; for those of the borough, of fustian. Before trial prisoners wear their own clothes, not being allowed the option of the prison dress unless their own should be unserviceable. They wear clogs, and stockings are allowed only in winter. There being but one prison dress, and that parti-coloured, the law which forbids the clothing of untried prisoners in parti-coloured apparel is infringed.

The diet has lately been altered, but the alteration has not received the sanction of the Secretary of State: it is as follows:— Diet.

DIET TABLE,

Ordered by the Court of Quarter Sessions, December 15, 1849, *for the Gaol and House of Correction.*

No. 1.

To prisoners whose imprisonment does not exceed fourteen days, for breakfast and supper, 1 pint of gruel and 8 ounces of bread; and for dinner, 8 ounces of bread.

No. 2.

To prisoners whose imprisonment does not exceed one month, but is more than fourteen days, the dietary of No. 1, with the addition of 1 lb. of potatoes for dinner on Mondays and Fridays.

TO OTHER PRISONERS.

Breakfast and supper each day, 1 pint of gruel and 8 ounces of bread. Dinner—

Sunday Tuesday Thursday	1 pint of gruel and 8 ounces of bread.
Monday Friday	1 lb. of potatoes and 8 ounces of bread; and if imprisonment is three months and upwards, and employed at hard labour, 2 ounces of cheese extra.
Wednesday Saturday	1 quart of soup and 8 ounces of bread, for prisoners at hard labour; but those not employed at hard labour, or for trial, and juvenile offenders, 1 pint of soup each.

Female prisoners to have the above dietary, excepting bread, which is to be 6 ounces each meal; and those days employed in washing, 6 ounces of bread and 2 ounces of cheese extra.

County Court and fraudulent debtors to have the dietary of prisoners for trial.

Prisoners under punishment in the refractory cells, 1 lb. of bread only per diem.

The soup to contain, each quart, 3 ounces of meat without bone, 2 ounces of oatmeal, and 1 ounce of rice, with a due proportion of vegetables, herbs, &c., and the gruel to contain 2 ounces of meal per pint.

Previously to the introduction of the above dietary all prisoners received the same amount of food, whatever might be the length of their sentences. The principle of graduation now adopted has been found very distasteful to the vagrant population, very few commitments for vagrancy having taken place since its adoption.

The surgeon attends at the prison almost daily, and makes extra visits as frequently as may be necessary. His register is kept in a clear manner. A single case of cholera occurred in the prison during the time of its great prevalence in the town, but it did not prove fatal. It would be very desirable that the surgeon should see daily, as a matter of course, all prisoners in close confinement for prison offences. Health.

The chaplain reads prayers daily, and performs two services on Sunday with one sermon. The service is performed alternately in Welsh and English. For a small portion of each day, except Sunday, the chaplain keeps school, which is attended by 9 or 10 prisoners. He takes much pains in the instruction of the prisoners, some of whom make considerable progress. In consideration of the scholastic part of his duty, an addition of 20*l.* has been made to his salary. The supply of books is moderately good, and an addition was about to be made to it at the time of my inspection. Moral and Religious Instruction.

The chapel is extremely confined, the parts occupied by prisoners being so close around the desk that the chaplain can only see a very small number at a time. The women have no scholastic instruction.

Punishments. The punishments generally consist of bread and water diet in the refractory-cell, but the underground dark cells have been used 24 times in the course of the last year.

The staff of the prison consists of the governor, matron, chaplain, surgeon, and two turnkeys.

Expenditure. The provisions are bought by contract: the price of meat, including bone, is by the present contract 3¾*d.* per lb.; flour 32*s.* per sack. The bread is made and baked in the prison.

The expenses of management in the last year amounted to 937*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.*, including the following principal items: —

Prison diet	£249
Salaries and pensions . .	446
Clothing, &c.	40
Fuel and light	48

The receipts have been in the same period as follows: —

By prisoners' labour	£4
For maintenance of borough prisoners . .	48
By fines	21
From the Treasury for maintenance of prisoners and removal of transports.	256

Labour. Some of the prisoners who belong to trades which can be made useful in the prison are allowed to work at them. In this manner much of the clothing is manufactured, 6 or 7 suits only being purchased annually from without. The other kinds of labour are the picking of oakum and that of the treadwheel; the latter is entirely unproductive, and little profit is made by the former.

Debtors. The accommodation for debtors is better in proportion than that of the criminal prisoners, but such of their cells as are situated on the ground floor are, like the rest of the prison, very damp for the greater part of the year. Five are so situated, and three on the floor above, which are of a more comfortable kind. The cells generally measure 12 feet by 9 feet, and are 9 feet high: a damp stone passage leads to them from the chapel-yard, and it is the custom for visitors to the debtors, unless they belong to their own families, to converse with them through the iron gate of this passage, the visitor being unsheltered from the rain. A few shillings would remedy this obvious defect. The yard and cells designed for female debtors were occupied at the time of my visit by male debtors committed by the County Court.

General Observations. The turnkeys have a very slovenly appearance, being undistinguishable by dress from the untried prisoners. Their influence and usefulness would be much increased if they were allowed uniforms.

CARMARTHEN.—BOROUGH LOCK-UP HOUSE.

This building previously to my last visit had been enlarged by the addition of a new cell, which would in some measure improve the accommodation. The available room for prisoners then consisted of two cells, 7 feet by 7 feet 6 inches, and 6 feet 6 inches in height. One contained a wooden bedstead, and the other a bench, not even straw being allowed to the prisoners; the excuse assigned for this, in my opinion a very insufficient one, was that prisoners are never kept here more than one night, except they are apprehended on a Saturday, when they remain for two; prisoners on remand being taken to the county gaol. That the number of persons subjected to this treatment is not inconsiderable is proved by the fact that in the course of a single year no less than 247 prisoners had been locked up, each for at least a night, in these miserable cells.

The keeper having been in a state of intoxication at the time of my last inspection, and the superintendent of police having informed me that he had more than once seen him in the same condition, I felt it my duty to report him to the Town Council, in the expectation that a person so unfit for his trust would be removed from it. After my departure from the town the complaint was investigated, but, although the charge of intoxication was proved by the reluctant testimony of the superintendent, the Town Council satisfied themselves by reprimanding the keeper.

The account of the building and the number of prisoners given above was derived from my notes at a previous visit, the keeper's condition and violent conduct rendering him incaple of affording any information on the last occasion.

LLANDILOFAWR.—COUNTY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

The Quarter-sessions being held here alternately with Carmarthen, it is of course requisite that a commodious lock-up house should exist, in which prisoners brought over from Carmarthen for trial may be safely detained pending the sessions. It will be seen however, by the following description, that security has not been sufficiently considered, and that the accommodation is far from adequate to meet the requirements of its periodical application. It consists of two cells under the Town-hall, and two more in a detached building behind; the former, long and narrow, measure 16 feet by 5 feet 9 inches, and are nearly 10 feet in height; the latter are 11 feet long, by 9 feet 2 inches in width, with the same height. The windows of the new cells last described had been glazed, but were all broken at the time of my inspection. With a view to warming the cells a furnace is built in the front wall, having a pipe traversing both the cells; this is very necessary, as the wall, although

built a year previously to my inspection, was very damp: it is said that a fire is kept in it constantly from October to March. The interior of the walls had been whitened, but was very dirty: one of the cells contained an iron bedstead, with very good bedding, but the other was devoid of those comforts. The narrow cells before alluded to are destitute of all means of artificial warmth, but from their situation under the Town-hall are drier than the others; there is a small grating over the door of each, which is not glazed. At the time of my visit these cells contained no bedsteads, but I was assured that it was intended to supply them. The only water-closets are in the yard; but such is the insecurity of the building, that it would not be safe to trust a prisoner in the yard for a moment unobserved. The new building first described is so near the wall on one side, that any man of ordinary climbing powers might easily effect his escape. The stones forming the coping of the building, too, project so far from the wall, that anybody might get to the roof and over the wall in that direction. Although the proper supervision of this lock-up house is a matter of great importance, especially in January and July, when the sessions are held at Llandilo, no officer resides upon the spot. It would appear very desirable that an intelligent superintendent should reside at the Town-hall, and should be made responsible for the safe custody of the prisoners. This, however, would not dispense with the necessity of adopting some measures for securing those parts of the building which have been pointed out above as the most likely to invite attempts at escape.

No written records are kept of the number of prisoners admitted into this lock-up house; it is said that 4 or 5 is the largest number that have been confined in either of the large cells at one time, but that 8 or 9 have been simultaneously confined in the old.

LLANGADDOCK.—COUNTY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

This lock-up house is situated at the entrance of the town from Llandilo; it had been built two years at the time of my inspection, but had not then been occupied by prisoners. It contains two cells opening into a passage, which communicates by a trap-door with the room above, that the magistrates may hear the cases of the prisoners there, without the necessity of taking them out in sight of the people.

The cells measure 11 feet 8 inches by 6 feet 10 inches, and are about 6 feet 6 inches high. The ceiling being of wood, there is no stove or other means of warming them; and as the building is not bounded on either side by a court, no windows have been made in the cells, which would have enabled the prisoners to communicate

with persons outside; so that the cells have no opening for the admission of air. An iron bedstead was provided for each, with good bedding.

LLANDOVERY.—COUNTY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

As at Llangaddock, the cells in this lock-up house are situated on the ground floor, and there is a room above for the magistrates to hold petty sessions, into which the prisoners are conveyed through a trap-door. The cells are two in number, measuring 9 feet 5 inches by 6 feet, with a height of 7 feet. The only means of admitting air or light is a hole in each door, in consequence of which the cells are exceedingly dark, and, as they are not artificially warmed, must be very damp and cold in winter. A window in the passage is so placed with reference to the hole in one of the doors, that not only can prisoners converse with persons outside, but beer and other prohibited articles are occasionally handed in to them on a pole, and I was informed that prisoners have been seen drunk from this cause. It is obvious that instruments to effect their escape might be conveyed to them by the same channel.

I feel it my duty to remark upon the great inconvenience attending the mode which prevails in Carmarthenshire, of having the lock-up houses detached from the residence of officers, and entirely independent of the police. In the present case the keys are kept by a person in the town, who does not reside on the spot. Many rescues have been attempted, and some have been effected, in consequence of the want of supervision. The room used by the magistrates for their petty sessions would make a sufficiently convenient residence for an officer and his family.

In the year preceeding my last visit 33 prisoners were confined in this building, 10 of whom were charged with felony, and the longest time for which any were detained therein was between four and five days. It is not uncommon for prisoners to be kept there two or three days.

NEWCASTLE EMLYN.—COUNTY LOCK-UP HOUSE.

Although this lock-up house is the only one in this part of the county, it is so small, so ill-appointed, and in such a state of dilapidation, as to be quite unfit for the detention of prisoners; in fact, it is stated that none but drunken people are put into it, lest they should escape, and that persons charged with felony are kept for greater security at the constable's house. The building is a mere cage, having two cells opening at once into the street. The cells measure 5 feet 4½ inches by 4 feet 6½ inches; they have no light except that admitted through gratings over

the doors: it is needless to say that they are not warmed: they contain no furniture but a bench fixed against the wall, about as wide as an ordinary knife-board. At the time of my inspection they contained the dust and cobwebs of many years, and the doors were so rotten, that they might have been broken by a child: at the bottom of one was some mouldy straw, quite unfit for a human being to lie upon. There is no residence contiguous to this building—a circumstance which would add to the facility of escape, if any prisoner charged with felony should be inadvertently confined in the cells—an accident quite possible, as it appears to be left to the discretion of the constables to adopt whatever mode of detention they may prefer.

LLANELLY.—LOCK-UP HOUSE AND POLICE-STATION.

This lock-up house serves as a place of detention for the district comprising the parishes of Llanelly, Pembrey, Llanen, Llangennech, and Llanedy. It consists of a magistrates' room, and three cells in an adjoining passage, the first of which is used as a store-room. The cells measure 10 feet by 6 feet, but, being destitute of all proper ventilation, are extremely close, especially when more than one prisoner is confined in them. There are iron bedsteads with straw upon them, but no bedding is allowed. The floors being boarded, however, and the cells warmed by hot-water pipes circulating through them, no complaint can be made of want of warmth, and if the most ordinary attention were paid to ventilation the cells would be habitable. The keeper has 13*l.* per annum, and an allowance of coals, and sleeping-rooms for his family upstairs. The only apartment for his use downstairs is called the kitchen; it is very little larger than one of the cells, and yet contains the boiler by which the cells are warmed; it is therefore extremely hot, and quite insufficient to accommodate a family of six persons, whom I found in it, if it were not rendered even more insupportable by the close proximity of a privy, without drainage or ventilation, for the use of all the inmates of the building. The only remedy for these evils would be the removal of the privy to another part of the enclosure, the extension of the kitchen in that direction, and the introduction of water-closets with a good supply of water into the cells. Some arrangement is also required for the accommodation of female prisoners.

The rapidly increasing population of this thriving town and neighbourhood renders these alterations imperatively necessary.

CARNARVONSHIRE.

CARNARVON.—COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Prison Buildings.

THIS prison is situated in a narrow street at the lower part of the town, and is very closely surrounded by houses, some of which, on the south and south-west sides, are built against the boundary wall. It adjoins the court in which the Sessions and Assizes are held, there being a private passage of communication, through which prisoners can be conveyed without the inconvenience of bringing them into the street. This advantage, is, however, more than compensated for by the facilities for communication with the exterior afforded by the situation of the prison, which renders it easy for any person to throw letters, tobacco, or other prohibited articles, over the walls.

The prison is very ill-constructed, the sleeping cells being very close and unwholesome, besides being insufficient in number for the separate accommodation of the prisoners, and too small to receive more than one with propriety. The number of divisions in the prison is also insufficient to carry out the classification required by Acts of Parliament, there being only two for male prisoners of the criminal class, and one for females,—the female debtors having no accommodation apart from the criminals.

The first division is that used for the confinement of convicted male prisoners, from the airing-yard of which a staircase leads to the cells, to be hereafter described. A workshop, containing an oakum-stove of large size, fills up one side of the airing-yard. In this workshop eight men were engaged at the time of my visit in picking oakum, two in making mats, and one in repairing clothes for the prison. The only turnkey in the service was employed in overlooking these prisoners, so that the rest of the males' prison must have been without any supervision.

In a yard contiguous to this division is the only reception-cell, in which was confined, at the time of the last inspection, a man whom it was considered necessary to separate from the rest, on account of supposed mental disorder. If his disorder was real, it was not likely to be benefited by solitude and seclusion, but would rather have required that he should have been carefully watched. This cell contains two beds, one over the other, like the berths in a ship, in which two prisoners are sometimes placed to sleep, contrary to the express provisions of the statute. The adjoining yard contains a trough of slate in which prisoners wash themselves, but has no water-closet.

Adjoining to this is a cell of precisely similar construction, but having only one bed; in this prisoners under punishment are confined. A man was here undergoing punishment at the time of my last visit, for having struck another prisoner. These cells measure respectively 8 feet and 6 feet, and have a common width

of 4 feet 10 inches. They are both very close, from the want of sufficient ventilation, especially the latter, which is in my opinion quite unfit for the confinement of prisoners (as is sometimes the case) for three days at a time. No means are employed for warming these cells in winter.

The open passage leading to these cells is only 3 feet 2 inches wide, and, being bounded on one side by the outer wall, would afford great facility for escape. In fact, escape has been effected in this manner, a prisoner having let himself down by a rope to the top of a low shed on the outside. The passage leads to a cell at the end, measuring 14 feet 9 inches by 4 feet 10 inches, which, in spite of its small size, contains four beds. This cell is warmer than the two preceding, as it abuts upon the oakum-stove, but it is extremely close and offensive when it contains prisoners. It is furnished with a night-pail for the use of prisoners, being destitute of a water-closet, and the adjoining yard contains a slate trough for the prisoners to wash in.

A staircase from the airing-yard of the convicted prisoners leads to a passage having in it three sleeping cells, each measuring only 7 feet 8 inches by 6 feet 4 inches, yet containing three beds in each. These cells are very close and unwholesome, and obviously unfit for lodging three prisoners at once; and as it is absolutely contrary to law to place two in them, their use ought to be restricted to a single prisoner. To obviate in some measure the want of ventilation, a small wicket in each door is left open at night, by which something is gained to the purity of the air, but it is open to the objection of permitting free conversation between the inmates of the several cells, as they are not under the restraint of superintendence, and are quite out of the hearing of the officers. The lower floor contains three cells, of the same size as those last mentioned, and containing, like them, three beds in each. These are even more close and offensive than the cells above. A gate from this lower passage leads to the courts of law, and another into a yard called the condemned yard, which has not lately been used for any purpose.

The slender accommodation above described is all that belongs to the convicted prisoners. Those awaiting their trials occupy a yard on the other side of the prison, which, although divided from that last described by the debtors' yard, is so closely contiguous to the females' airing-yard, that conversation frequently takes place between the prisoners of either sex. In the day-room of this division were nine prisoners on the day of inspection, of whom three were under summary conviction, and should not therefore have been confined with the untried prisoners. It was explained that they are necessarily so placed from the want of room on the convicted side, but this explanation shows only that the accommodations of the prison are insufficient to enable the magistrates to comply with the law, and shows, with other evils of

daily occurrence, the necessity of providing a better prison. An escape was made from this yard on the 20th December last, a rope having been thrown over the wall from the outside by an accomplice. When the escape of this prisoner was discovered, two others had nearly succeeded in following him by the same route.

The sleeping-rooms for this division are over the day-room. They are two in number, each containing six beds. When these are filled, which is generally the case before the sessions, it becomes necessary to locate the supernumeraries either in the sick ward or in the solitary cell before described, or in both. There is a large hand-bell in one of the dormitories, as well as in several other parts of the prison, to enable prisoners to summon the turnkey in case of illness.

Between the divisions for the untried and convicted males is that for male debtors, in which only one man was confined at the time of my visit. He was under commitment for 40 days by the County Court. From a pump in the debtors' airing-yard the prison was formerly supplied with water, but, this having been found to be a precarious source, water has recently been laid on from the town. The supply is now abundant, but the water is far from good.

A door from the debtors' yard leads to a detached building called the itch ward, having a yard peculiar to it, with a slate trough and water-closet. This division has a day-room, in which is a bath on a good construction, and a large room over it with five beds. The whole of this department is well fitted for the purpose for which it was designed, but owing to the defective accommodation of the rest of the prison it is not restricted to that application. Clean prisoners are put to sleep in the bedroom, from the want of room elsewhere, and the bath is used for all prisoners indiscriminately, as there is no other in the prison. I would beg to call attention to the absolute necessity of providing another bath for general purposes, by which a practice calculated to favour the spread of contagious disease in the prison will be rendered unnecessary.

The females' prison is very small, and being surrounded on two sides by that of the men, it is extremely difficult to prevent communications passing between them. The discovery of attempts to communicate by throwing letters over the wall from the untried prisoners' yard is a very frequent cause of punishment, and the governor has also discovered that the privies in the several yards are used as channels of conversation.

The whole of this division consists of a day-room and wash-house on the ground-floor, and three sleeping-cells over them, each containing a single bed. A dark cell is situate in one corner of the females' airing-yard, which from its dampness ought never to be used at all, but which is much more frequently employed

for the punishment of men than of women, so that not only are the men on such occasions taken through the women's day-room and yard to the cell, but all the while they are confined in it they can be distinctly heard by the women. It is needless to point out to those familiar with the nature and motives of prison offences that misconduct is encouraged among the men by the knowledge that their punishment will enable them to create a disturbance in the women's prison, and excite the sympathy of the other sex.

The limited extent of accommodation makes it impossible to provide a separate division for female debtors, who are therefore, contrary to law, associated with criminals. The untried females too, contrary to the express provisions of an Act of Parliament, are confined in the same division with the convicted; and when the prison is full, must even sleep in the same beds with them. The impossibility of maintaining a proper degree of separation of the women from the men, and of the several classes of either sex from each other, furnishes an unanswerable argument for the extension of the prison accommodation, and was forcibly presented to my own mind by my having actually heard the conversation of the male prisoners as I stood in the females' airing-yard. It may also be observed that such is the insecurity of the building, that it would not be difficult for a person in the street to gain access in a few minutes to the females' prison by climbing over the governor's house.

The chapel is very badly constructed, it having but one entrance, and the prisoners all sitting together on benches, except the females, who are concealed by a curtain. A prisoner effected his escape from the chapel in the last year, by getting through the bars of the window, and from thence to the roof, after which he dropped down into the street in front of the gaol, the height being no more than 15 feet. The cells of the prisoners contain no furniture, except those of the women, which have a kind of washhand-stand. The bedding is of good quality, but only comprises a rug and three blankets, no sheets being allowed. Upon the latter deficiency I would observe that it is no less opposed to economy than to cleanliness. The bedsteads are all of iron, and generally placed in two tiers, as at Newgate. The day-rooms and work-rooms are lighted with gas. The buildings, although incommodious and insecure, are in good repair and very clean. No alterations having in view the extension of the accommodation are contemplated, nor is it advisable, in my opinion, that any should be undertaken which would involve the necessity of much expense, as it would be quite impossible to make any improvement in the present building which would make it sufficient for the purposes of the county; and as the circumstance of money having been expended, however uselessly, on the existing prison, might hereafter be urged as an argument against incurring the cost of a new prison.

The drainage of the prison, although far from perfect, has of late been very much amended by the construction of new drains in certain parts where they were formerly very defective, and by the abolition of cesspools, which in all instances have been opened into drains. The new drainage was working well at the time of my last inspection, but time enough had scarcely elapsed to test its sufficiency. The airing-yards, which are on the west side of the building, are now tolerably drained, but they are so confined in space that the sun scarcely enters them in winter: the day-rooms also, and the lower cells, are very damp in wet weather. Some alterations are in the course of completion, which will separate the apartments of the governor's family from those of the debtors, to which they have hitherto been too closely contiguous.

There are no infirmaries for prisoners of either sex, so that, when sufficiently ill to be removed from their wards, they must either be put into the itch ward or into some of the debtors' rooms over the street.

The following table exhibits the number of prisoners in confinement on the day of the last inspection:— Prisoners on the day of Inspection.

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of Carnarvon on the 12th of June, 1850.

Prisoners for Trial.

Name.	Age.	Specific Offence charged.	Date of Commitment.	Whether for Trial at Assizes or Sessions.
S. P.	32	Burglariously breaking into a dwelling-house, with intent to steal therefrom.	5 Apr. 1850	Assizes.
J. J.	23	Stealing wearing apparel and a piece of cloth from a dwelling-house.	10 May ,,	Sessions.
W. J.	23	Burglariously breaking out of a dwelling-house, and stealing therefrom sundry pieces of the current coin, also some bread, butter, tobacco, and a pair of shoes, &c.	6 May ,,	Assizes.
O. J.	36	Stealing one cask of cement . . .	. .	Sessions.
O. F.	52	Rape	. .	Assizes.
M. J.	22	Murdering her infant child . . .	. .	Ditto.

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of Carnarvon on the 12th of June, 1850.

Convicted Prisoners.

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions or Summarily.	Sentence.
G. R.	33	Stealing wearing apparel, also some coffee and sugar.	8 Mar. 1850	14 Mar. 1850	Sessions	6 months' imprisonment, hard labour.
J. E.	47	Sheepstealing	28 Sept. 1849	18 Oct. 1849	Ditto	2 years' ,, ,,
O. O.	33	Obtaining goods by false pretence	15 Mar. 1850	18 Mar. 1850	Assizes	3 months' ,, ,,
W. O.	22	Stealing sundry pieces of the current coin from a dwelling-house.	2 Apr. ,,	11 Apr. ,,	Sessions	6 ,, ,, ,,
J. G.	29	Stealing a saddle	9 Jan. ,,	14 Mar. ,,	Ditto	1 year's ,, ,,
J. E.	35	Stealing a quantity of barley	17 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	6 months' ,, ,,
J. D.	20	Stealing joiner's tools	Surrendered in Court.	,, ,,	Ditto	,, ,, ,,
D. E.	22	Poaching	30 Jan. 1850	30 Jan. ,,	Summarily	3 ,, ,, ,, to find bail or be further imprisoned for 6 months.
H. J.	..	Bastardy	1 May ,,	1 May ,,	Ditto	2 months' imprisonment.
J. R.	38	Sheepstealing	20 July 1849	23 July 1849	Assizes	1 year's imprisonment, hard labour.
E. W.	..	Assault	17 Apr. 1850	17 Apr. 1850	Summarily	2 months' imprisonment.
R. E.	39	Stealing a watch, money, and wearing apparel from dwelling-houses, also for attempting to break out of prison.	3 Nov. ,,	3 Jan. ,,	Sessions	15 months' imprisonment, hard labour, for both offences.
M. J.	52	Assault	26 May ,,	26 May ,,	Summarily	2 months' imprisonment, hard labour.
J. W.	..	Vagrancy	24 Apr. ,,	24 Apr. ,,	Ditto	,, ,, ,,
J. B.	..	Assault	26 May ,,	26 May ,,	Ditto	1 month's imprisonment.
R. R.	23	Forging a banker's cheque for £10	11 June 1849	21 July 1849	Assizes	1 year's ,,
R. O.	23	Poaching	18 May 1850	18 May 1850	Summarily	1 month's imprisonment, hard labour.
D. B.	20	Rogue and vagabond	1 May ,,	1 ,, ,,	Ditto	2 months' ,, ,,
D. C.	27	,, ,,	,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	3 ,, ,, ,,
E. J.	27	Drunkenness and disorderly conduct	29 Apr. 1850	29 Apr. ,,	Ditto	Bail or Quarter Sessions.

The prison has been exceedingly crowded at times during the past year; indeed it rarely happens that the numbers in confinement are not greater than can be decently and properly accommodated. The total number of criminal prisoners in the years ending Michaelmas 1849 and 1850 are shown in the following table:—

TOTAL Number of Prisoners in Confinement in the course of the Years ending at Michaelmas 1849 and 1850.

	1849			1850		
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Male.	Fem.	Total.
CRIMINAL PRISONERS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year:—						
Prisoners for Trial	4	..	4	4	..	4
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions	15	2	17	13	1	14
Summarily Convicted	2	..	2	8	2	10
Received under Commitments and who have not been in the Custody of other Governors:—						
Prisoners for Trial	40	7	47	24	3	27
Rendered in Court for Trial	5	6	11	15	4	19
Summarily Convicted	64	9	73	73	12	85
Committed for Examination, but afterwards Discharged, not being fully Committed	4	..	4	2	3	5
Total of Criminals	134	24	158	139	25	164
DEBTORS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year	4	..	4	2	..	2
Admitted in the course of the Year	21	..	21	18	..	18
Total of Debtors and Criminals	159	24	183	159	25	184
Prisoners pardoned on Medical grounds	1	..	1	..	..	..
Greatest Number at any one time:—						
Criminal Prisoners	30	8	38	26	5	31
Debtors	5	..	5	4	..	4

It has been already stated that the wards of the prison were clean and orderly; it must be admitted, however, that the personal cleanliness of the prisoners might have been greatly improved. The suggestion made above of a bath for general purposes would greatly promote this object. All prisoners are allowed a prison dress, even before trial, if they do not object to it. They wear clogs, but no stockings. In some instances, where prisoners' clothes are bad, old prison clothing is given on their discharge. Cleanliness.

The diet at present enforced was certified for adoption by the Diet.

Secretary of State on the 12th of July, 1848, but no rules have yet been submitted for his sanction, as required by law.

Health. The surgeon attends daily, or oftener if required by special circumstances. He keeps a journal; examines prisoners on admission; sees those in solitary confinement; but he makes no inspection to ascertain the condition of prisoners who do not complain of illness. A prisoner was pardoned on the 18th of January in the last year, on medical grounds, after having been six months in confinement. The following list exhibits the number of patients in the Carnarvon County Gaol, from the 1st of July, 1849, to the 30th of June, 1850, and the nature of cases under treatment :—

Sore feet	1	Difficulty of making water	2
Inflammation of the eyes	3	Colic	2
Diarrhœa	14	Itch	5
Feverish cold	6	Venereal	7
Piles	2	Boils	2
Dyspepsia	17	Inflammation	6
Pustular eruptions	3	Rheumatism	3
Headache	2	Rupture	1
Influenza	1	Lumbago	1
Constipation	16		
Anasarca	2	Total	96

The chaplain officiates by himself or curate every morning, his own attendances being at least five weekly. Besides performing the public services, he converses with prisoners in private; he keeps a journal and a private register of the conduct of prisoners; he sees all prisoners on admission and discharge. There is a schoolmaster employed, with a salary of 10*l*. a year, in consideration of which he also acts as clerk to the chaplain; and there is a library of religious books, which are lent to such of the prisoners as can read. The sacrament has been administered once during the year.

Punishments. Punishments for prison offences are very numerous, and, as will be seen by the subjoined list, all arise out of defective discipline and want of proper supervision :—

A Return of the Number of Offences committed by Prisoners within this Gaol, from Michaelmas, 1848, to Michaelmas, 1849.

Talking at work	66
Neglect of work	41
Stealing oakum	24
Obscene language	5
Wasting their work	117
Exchanging food	7
Insubordinate conduct	8
Writing on cell floor	1
Misconduct in chapel	4
Talking in their cells	17
Having tobacco and using it	5
Fighting	4
Quarrelling	11
Destroying prison property	5
Neglecting to wash themselves	6
Miscellaneous	167
Total	488

No treadmill or other machine labour is employed, but the prisoners work at mat-making and oakum-picking. These employments have sometimes been very productive, 150*l.* having been realized in the year 1848. The receipts, however, for some reason, have very much fallen off, probably from the difficulty of disposing of the oakum, in consequence of much of that commodity being brought from Liverpool. Labour.

The provisions are not bought by contract. The price of bread is 11*s.* per cwt.; of beef, 4*d.* per lb., including bone. The daily cost of diet is about 3¾*d.*; but as the rations of the governor, matron, and servant, amounting to about 26*l.* a year, are included in the prisoners' diet account, the average daily cost is in fact somewhat lower. The expenditure during the past year has amounted to 812*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* The principal items are as follows, in round numbers:— Expenditure.

	£.
Prison diet	173
Clothing and bedding	33
Fuel and light	69
Stationery	20
Water-rate	10
Salaries	348
Sundries	24
Repairs	85

The receipts of the same year have been as follows:—

From the Treasury,—

	£.
For maintenance of prisoners	174
For the removal of transports	31
Profits of prisoners' labour	74
Fines applicable to the county rate	39

The staff of the prison, which consists of the governor, matron, chaplain, surgeon, schoolmaster, and one turnkey, is insufficient for its requirements, at least another turnkey being necessary to preserve order and discipline. Rules should be prepared by the magistrates, and submitted to the Secretary of State for approval. These should have reference, not only to the conduct of prisoners, but also to the duties of the several officers. General Observations.

BANGOR.—LOCK-UP HOUSE AND POLICE-STATION.

This building serves as the residence of a policeman and his family. It also contains a sessions-room for the magistrates, besides the accommodation for prisoners. There are three cells, one on the ground-floor, and two above. The lower cell has an iron bedstead, covered with plank, without bedding, and is chiefly used for drunken people. The other cells are better provided, each having two beds, placed one above the other, strongly built of iron, and furnished with sufficient bedding. No complaint can

be made of the want of air in the cells, a large open flue passing from the corner of each to the roof; but as there are no means of warming the cells, they must be excessively cold in winter. There are traps in the doors of the cells for handing in food, &c., but they are made too large, as a good-sized boy might get through them, besides which they are very insecurely closed by a small bolt, to which a bar outside would be a very proper addition. The cells measure about 13 feet by 6 feet 4 inches, and are 7 feet high. The airing-yard having been constructed of rough stone, and having right angles at the corners, escapes from it have been numerous, but I am assured that those who have escaped have only been confined for drunkenness; persons under charge of felony being better watched. The recurrence of this accident has been now rendered more difficult, by the stones in the corners having been smoothed and covered with cement; but the rough vertical stones placed at the top of the wall, being cemented together, would facilitate escape rather than prevent it.

The drainage is very defective, all the filth of the prison being drained into a single cesspool: this might be easily remedied, as a brook runs at the back of the prison.

GLAMORGANSHIRE.

CARDIFF.—COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

This prison was first occupied in July, 1832, and is used for the reception of all classes of criminal prisoners, and debtors. It is constructed upon a similar plan to the common gaol of Bristol; the governor's house, offices, and chapel occupying the centre, and the prisoners being located in distinct blocks of building, radiating from the centre, and communicating by bridges with the chapel.

Males' Prison.

Each block of building is divided by a central partition, the division being complete on the lower floor, but a communication generally existing in the upper from side to side. The first division of the first block, forming a part of the females' prison, will be afterwards described: the other half contains eight cells on two floors, which were designed for solitary confinement, but they are never used for that purpose, as the very restricted accommodation of the prison generally makes it necessary for three prisoners to be placed in each. These cells have stone floors and iron doors; the light is admitted above the doors—a condition necessary throughout this division of the prison, as all the cells open externally. There are no alarums to enable the prisoners to summon an officer, those originally fixed having become quite unserviceable. The system of warming the cells is very defective, and there cannot be said to be any ventilation, except such as arises accidentally

through the crevices. Two airing-yards are attached to this division.

The next block of buildings contains on each side one day-room, six small sleeping-cells containing each one bed, and one of large size which has on occasion from four to six beds. These cells are furnished with fixed iron bedsteads; they have inspection-holes, not of the best construction, in the doors, and no bells or alarums. It is said that any prisoner calling from the cells might be heard by the watchman, but, as the watch is only maintained till one o'clock A.M., this cannot be considered a sufficient provision. The prisoners of the worst character are prudently placed in the single cells. The day-rooms are exceedingly small, and the prisoners are huddled together without the supervision of any officer. In the first day-room of this division I found 15 untried men; in that on the other side 5. The next block is divided in nearly the same manner; the cells, however, are differently divided, there being in all eight small sleeping-cells, three of large size, and three day-rooms. In the first day-room there were 13 men for trial at the Quarter Sessions; in the second, 9 under summary conviction; and in the third, 9 for trial.

The cells and day-rooms above described constitute all the accommodation properly belonging to male criminals. As, however, the prison was full at the time of my visit, a day-room and two sleeping cells were taken from the County Court debtors, for the accommodation of four convicted men. This arrangement is obviously objectionable, first, because the two classes of debtors are thereby necessarily placed in one division, rendering it very difficult, if not impossible, to carry out the more rigid discipline prescribed by law for certain debtors; and, secondly, because the window of the day-room so given up to the convicted criminals, looking into the airing-yard of the debtors, facilitates unlawful communications between these several classes, and even makes it easy for the debtors to transfer a portion of their allowances to the criminals.

Standing back between the first and second divisions is a good infirmary for male prisoners, with turnkey's room and store-room, and under it two dark cells for punishment. At the time of my visit two men were confined to bed in the infirmary, and one prisoner was under punishment for refusing to work and using abusive language. The cookhouse and treadmill are placed together, between the second and third divisions. The cookhouse is convenient and sufficient for the purposes of the prison: two convicted male prisoners act as cooks, without any free person being placed over them—a practice which should never be allowed. In the neighbourhood of the cookhouse is the bath for male prisoners, in which every prisoner is bathed once a fortnight, besides the bath always taken on admission. There is only a single reception-cell in the prison for males, and that only large enough to receive one at a time; should more

arrive simultaneously, they are located in one of the so-called solitary cells. It would be easy to provide additional reception-cells, by which this inconvenient necessity would be obviated.

The treadmill is placed at the back of the cookhouse; it is large enough to hold 11 prisoners at one time, a relay of six being ready to take their turns. The treadmill pumps up water for the supply of the gaol, and for flushing the drains, which being very flat are only kept clean by the daily repetition of this process.

The accommodation for debtors would be quite sufficient if the part of the building and the airing-yard now occupied by convicted prisoners were restored to the County Court debtors.

Females' Prison.

The prison for females consists of the half of the block of building first described, and a large detached building, part of which has been recently erected. The former consists entirely of sleeping cells, five of which are small, and four of larger size. The detached building contains, first, a large boarded day-room, occupied at the time of my visit by nine untried prisoners; in the corner of this room is a copper, to supply the women's bath, situate in a contiguous room. Over this are two dormitories, one of large size, and a store-room. These arrangements are very good, with the exception of the staircase, which is on the outside of the building and entirely unprotected from the weather. Separated from the part which has been described is the division for convicted prisoners, consisting of two day-rooms, two airing-yards, four large sleeping-rooms, and one cell with a single bed: two women occupied one of these divisions, and one the other. Behind this building, and having a separate airing-yard, there are a day-room and sleeping-room for female debtors, in which was a woman who had been in custody since June, 1845. Near the debtors' apartments is a convenient laundry for the general purposes of the prison.

Prisoners on the day of Inspection.

The following table shows the prisoners in custody on the day of my last inspection:—

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of Cardiff on the 25th of September, 1850.

Prisoners for Trial.

Name.	Age.	Specific Offence charged.	Date of Commitment.	Whether for Trial at Assizes or Sessions.
J. W.	21	Stealing a pair of boots . . .	16 July 1850	Sessions.
J. P.	18	,, a jacket and divers other articles.	23 ,, ,,	Ditto. Assizes.
M. V.	25	Stabbing, with intent	29 ,, ,,	
J. D.	30	Stealing wearing apparel . . .	30 ,, ,,	Sessions.
T. B.	25	,, ,, . . .	1 August ,,	Ditto.
W. S.	33	,, money	1 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. H.	50	,, a hatchet.	1 ,, ,,	Ditto.
D. R.	30	Assault, with intent	5 ,, ,,	Ditto.
R. J.	21	Manslaughter	7 ,, ,,	Assizes.
T. M.	24	Ditto	7 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. W.	30	Assault and robbery	8 ,, ,,	Ditto.
H. J.	22	Stealing money from the person .	8 ,, ,,	Sessions.
H. P.	22	,, a tarpaulin	8 ,, ,,	Ditto.
D. M.	21	,, a blanket.	8 ,, ,,	Ditto.
W. J.	18	,, a saw.	15 ,, ,,	Ditto.
P. R.	21	,, mutton	18 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. P.	26	,, a 2-feet rule	22 ,, ,,	Ditto.
R. M.	42	,, 2 geese	23 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. T.	19	,, wearing apparel . . .	24 ,, ,,	Ditto.
R. E.	19	,, ,, . . .	24 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. K.	25	,, ,, . . .	24 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. P.	25	,, ,, . . .	24 ,, ,,	Ditto.
S. O.	40	,, money	25 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. B.	18	,, wood	26 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. W.	45	,, from the person . . .	27 ,, ,,	Ditto.
R. T.	27	,, wearing apparel . . .	31 ,, ,,	Ditto.
F. J.	18	,, 2 shirts	6 Sept. ,,	Ditto.
J. P.	18	,, ,, ...	6 ,, ,,	Ditto.
D. J.	55	,, wood	12 ,, ,,	Ditto.
R. M.	20	Receiving money under false pretences.	15 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. S.	38	Uttering counterfeit coin . . .	15 ,, ,,	Ditto.
S. A.	16	Highway robbery	16 ,, ,,	Assizes.
T. T.	51	Stealing a watch	17 ,, ,,	Sessions.
W. T.	32	,, bread.	18 ,, ,,	Ditto.
P. M.	29	Uttering counterfeit coin . . .	18 ,, ,,	Ditto.
W. G.	23	Manslaughter	25 ,, ,,	Assizes.
J. W.	38	,, ...	25 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. H.	17	Stealing an anvil	5 ,, ,,	For further examination.
*M. J.	13	Burglary	16 July ,,	Sessions.
*M. C.	29	Rioting.	18 ,, ,,	Ditto.
*C. T.	28	Stealing from the person . . .	19 ,, ,,	Ditto.
*M. D.	20	,, ,, . . .	30 ,, ,,	Ditto.
*R. W.	24	,, bread.	30 ,, ,,	Ditto.
*C. C.	22	,, from the person . . .	5 August ,,	Ditto.
*M. E.	45	,, a pair of boots . . .	16 July ,,	Ditto.
*M. W.	26	Assault and robbery	8 August ,,	Assizes.
*M. H.	21	Robbery from a dwelling-house .	22 ,, ,,	Sessions.
*M. T.	19	Stealing from the person . . .	12 Sept. ,,	Ditto.
*E. D.	24	,, wearing apparel . . .	15 ,, ,,	Ditto.

* Females.

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of Cardiff on the 25th of September, 1850.

Convicted Prisoners.

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether Sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
G. B.	34	Burglary	28 Mar. 1849	13 Aug. 1849	Assizes	2 years' imprisonment, hard labour.
*C. S.	22	Ditto	13 April ,,	13 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
G. B.	33	Sheepstealing, &c.	28 Aug. ,,	16 Oct. ,,	Sessions	1 week and 18 calendar months' imprisonment ,,
H. C.	23	Ditto	28 ,, ,,	16 ,, ,,	Ditto	18 calendar months' imprisonment
A. W.	23	Concealing the birth of her child.	20 Oct. ,,	1 Jan. 1850	Ditto	12 calendar months' ,,
A. D.	17	Burglary	12 Feb. 1850	2 Mar. ,,	Assizes	15 ,, ,,
J. A.	32	Receiving money under false pretences.	2 Mar. ,,	2 ,, ,,	Ditto	15 ,, ,,
D. W.	30	Malicious assault	9 Feb. ,,	2 ,, ,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
H. D.	55	Bestiality	20 Mar. ,,	9 July ,,	Ditto	Death recorded.
D. M.	26	Burglary	6 April ,,	9 ,, ,,	Ditto	12 calendar months' imprisonment
*E. M.	46	Coining	8 ,, ,,	9 ,, ,,	Ditto	15 ,, ,,
M. G.	19	Highway robbery	3 June ,,	9 ,, ,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
J. P.	19	Ditto	3 ,, ,,	9 ,, ,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
H. A.	31	Receiving money under false pretences.	7 July ,,	9 ,, ,,	Ditto	9 ,, ,,
W. E. W.	21	Stealing wearing apparel	9 ,, ,,	9 ,, ,,	Ditto	4 ,, ,,
P. S.	31	,, tools	9 ,, ,,	9 ,, ,,	Ditto	3 ,, ,,
J. J.	30	Shooting with intent	29 Jan. ,,	9 ,, ,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
G. W.	18	Vagrancy	28 June ,,	28 June ,,	Summarily	3 ,, ,,
J. W.	33	Assault	6 Aug. ,,	6 Aug. ,,	Ditto	2 ,, ,,
E. P.	33	Ditto	26 ,, ,,	26 ,, ,,	Ditto	2 ,, ,,
J. D.	19	Wilful damage	16 Sept. ,,	16 Sept. ,,	Ditto	6 weeks' ,,
J. M.	17	Ditto	16 ,, ,,	16 ,, ,,	Ditto	28 days' ,,
G. S.	20	Ditto	16 ,, ,,	16 ,, ,,	Ditto	28 ,, ,,
M. W.	17	Assault	16 ,, ,,	16 ,, ,,	Ditto	3 weeks' ,,
W. P.	21	Ditto	19 ,, ,,	19 ,, ,,	Ditto	6 ,, ,,
J. E.	28	Ditto	21 ,, ,,	21 ,, ,,	Ditto	28 days' ,,
J. M.	24	Stealing potatoes	24 ,, ,,	24 ,, ,,	Ditto	14 ,, ,,

* Females.

DEBTORS in the County Gaol of Glamorgan on the 25th day of September, 1850.

Name.	When brought into Custody.	Under what Process.
A. D.*	25 June 1845	In execution.
T. D.	13 April 1850	Ditto.
H. J.	15 July ,,	Fined 100*l.* for smuggling, or 6 calendar months' imprisonment.
W. C.	29 ,, ,,	Fined 100*l.* for smuggling, or to be imprisoned till paid.
J. B.	29 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. R. H.	29 Aug. ,,	In execution.
D. E.	17 Sept. ,,	County Court, 28 days.
D. T.	20 ,, ,,	In Execution.

* Female.

The prison was very clean in every part; great facility is given to the prisoners for personal cleanliness. Partitioned compartments, used for washing, as well as for oakum-picking, are placed near the treadmill, and in other parts of the prison. In each of these is a small foot-tub containing cold water, a towel, a piece of soap, and a comb, for the use of a prisoner whose number corresponds with that of the compartment. In addition to this daily ablution each prisoner has a warm bath once a fortnight. Cleanliness.

The clothing of untried prisoners is grey: a blue stripe in the sleeve distinguishes those sentenced to imprisonment; while prisoners under sentence of transportation are marked by a red sleeve. Untried prisoners are invariably clothed in the prison dress, if they do not object to it—a custom well worthy of imitation in other prisons, in which the prison clothing is restricted to those whose own apparel is unfit for use. Stockings are allowed throughout the prison, and the use of clogs is restricted to the winter season, shoes being preferred in the summer. The bedding is very good, except that sheets are allowed only to women. Clothing and Bedding.

The dietary is very objectionable, as the same quantity of food is given to prisoners sentenced to the longest and shortest terms—a mode of dieting which is very attractive to vagrants and the inmates of workhouses. The daily allowance is as follows:— Diet.

Bread	1½ lb.
Oatmeal in gruel	4 oz.
Potatoes	1 lb.

Men working on the wheel are allowed in addition two ounces of barley and two ounces of rice daily. This allowance is also offered to the women, but few accept it; the women performing hard labour being allowed half a pound of meat each on washing-days. A dietary graduated on the principle of that proposed by the Secretary of State would be a great improvement, and would materially contribute to reducing the number of commitments for vagrancy and riot in workhouses.

The surgeon attends three times a week, or oftener if necessary: Health.

he is not required to visit as a matter of course the prisoners under punishment, but he sees any who may happen to be so confined at the time of his ordinary attendances; neither is he required to examine prisoners on admission, unless there should be suspicion of the existence of disease in them. This omission is at variance with the 17th clause of the 10th section of the Gaol Act. Although cases of cholera were numerous, and frequently fatal, in the immediate neighbourhood of the prison during the last year, not a single case occurred within its walls. This remarkable immunity from attacks of cholera has been almost invariably enjoyed by the prisons in the southern and western district.

Moral and Religious Instruction.

The chaplain attends only twice a week, performing the full morning service, with the addition on Sunday of a sermon. The chapel is lofty and well ventilated, and, although not particularly well constructed, is good enough for the kind of discipline pursued in the prison. It is divided by radiating partitions, four divisions in the centre being given to male criminals, the females being placed on the left, and the debtors on the right; a curtain being placed for the concealment of the females. There is no schoolmaster employed; nor is any instruction in reading given to prisoners, except by one to another, thus transgressing at the same time two statutes. By the 10th clause of the 10th section of the Gaol Act, it is provided that all prisoners shall be instructed in reading and writing; while it is forbidden by the 4th clause of the 6th section of the 2 & 3 Vict., cap. 56, that any prisoner shall be employed in the instruction of any other. It is my duty to observe that, in a prison containing so large a number of inmates, the appointment of a schoolmaster seems to be as much a moral duty as a legal necessity.

Punishments.

The punishments are few in number, and are seldom inflicted for any other offence than refusing to work. This might naturally be expected in a prison in which, as there is no supervision maintained, no offences of a minor description, which form the bulk of punishable acts elsewhere, are likely to be observed.

Labour.

The treadmill and oakum-picking are the only kinds of labour pursued in the prison: at these employments the prisoners work by turns; the treadmill not being used in the middle of the day in summer, from humane considerations. The picking of oakum affords a considerable profit, for, being bought at 12*s.* per cwt. and sold at 18*s.*, the return is considerable, after deducting the loss from impurities.

Expenditure.

The expenditure of the prison for the past year, including 67*l.* for repairs, has been 1795*l.* in round numbers. The following are among the principal items:—

	£.
Salaries	641
Diet	341
Clothing and bedding	122
Fuel, light, and soap	101

Stationery	18
Removal of prisoners to and from trial	97
Sundries	272

The receipts, as shown in the account rendered to me, amount to only 22*l.*, nearly all derived from fines. No credit is given for profits of prisoners' labour, nor for any payments by the Treasury on account of prisoners' maintenance or the removal of convicts. If the latter sums have not been claimed by the county, the omission should be rectified; if they have, they should appear in the accounts. Every article of consumption is purchased by contract, at least all such as constitute considerable items of expenditure. Everything is obtained on a written order from the Visiting Justices.

Debtors.

It has been before observed that the debtors of all classes are placed together, one of their divisions having been withdrawn for the use of criminal prisoners; the remaining accommodation consists of a large and convenient day-room and three large sleeping-rooms.

General Observations.

The most striking defects in this prison are, the paucity of religious and the total want of secular instruction, alluded to above; the want of sufficient supervision over the prisoners, and of adequate accommodation proportioned to their numbers. As far as the scanty means at his disposal will allow, the governor conducts the discipline very efficiently. The rules are very imperfect, they having been certified by the Secretary of State in November, 1836, with an express proviso that they were to be regarded "as temporary and provisional."

The staff of the prison consists of the governor, matron, chaplain, surgeon, three male and two female turnkeys. It will be observed that there is no schoolmaster, and that the chaplain's salary is only 40*l.* per annum, while those of the surgeon and governor are 90*l.* and 300*l.* respectively.

The following table exhibits a statement of all the prisoners in confinement in each of the last two years:—

TOTAL Number of Prisoners in Confinement in the course of the Years ending at Michaelmas 1849 and 1850.

	1849			1850		
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Male.	Fem.	Total.
CRIMINAL PRISONERS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year :—						
Prisoners for Trial	12	5	17	12	4	16
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions .	24	5	29	24	5	29
Summarily Convicted	23	5	28	23	5	28
For Re-examination	..	..	..	..	1	1
Received under Commitments and who have not been in the Custody of other Governors :—						
Prisoners for Trial	147	64	211	170	57	227
Transferred to other Governors for Trial	..	..	..	3	1	4
Rendered in Court for Trial . .	14	3	17	24	22	46
Summarily Convicted	244	59	303	221	47	268
Received from other Governors, and enumerated in their Returns :—						
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions .	13	8	21	18	6	24
Committed for Examination, but afterwards Discharged, not being fully Committed	34	5	39	23	..	23
Total of Criminals .	511	154	665	518	148	666
DEBTORS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year	3	1	4	3	1	4
Admitted in the course of the Year .	59	2	61	51	..	51
Total of Debtors and Criminals.	573	157	730	572	149	721
Deaths in the course of the Year . .	..	..	..	1	..	1
Greatest Number at any one time :—						
Criminal Prisoners	84	29	113	88	19	107
Debtors	12	2	14	10	1	11

SWANSEA.—COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Prison Buildings.

This prison is on a very bad construction, with the exception of a small part of it, which has recently been added, containing 15 cells. The original buildings for the reception of prisoners are built in the form of a crescent, whose concavity is turned towards the governor's house and chapel, occupying the centre and front of the area. Although described as a house of correction, this prison is also used for the detention of untried prisoners, and it has also been declared for the reception of debtors committed by the County Courts. The crescent is divided in the middle, one half

being devoted to female prisoners and debtors, the other to male criminals. The division for male criminals is subdivided into five, which are severally devoted to the following classes: 1, summary convictions, old offenders; 2, summary convictions of persons of more respectable character; 3, prisoners before trial; 4 and 5, prisoners sentenced to hard labour. Each of these divisions has a separate airing-yard, bounded by walls on either side, but open to inspection from the governor's house. The ground floor of each division has a day-room and some sleeping cells, and the floor above sleeping-cells only, all of which throughout the prison lead at once from the yards and open gallery within the crescent. The first day-room measures only 8 feet by 6 feet, yet there were seven prisoners therein at the time of my inspection. With respect to this division, also, I may observe that the two cells on the ground, which go by the name of the condemned cells, are painted black (a custom very properly obsolete elsewhere), and would be much better and more useful if assimilated to the other cells, and used for sleeping in, since condemned prisoners, if there were any such in the prison, would certainly not be placed in them. The two yards for hard-labour prisoners contain each a treadmill of the worst construction, since it is without partitions. In a box placed in the wall between these two yards, an officer is constantly placed to watch the prisoners at exercise, and, lest he should be attacked by them, the box is surrounded by a barrier, and he leaves his keys outside; at the time of my last inspection, the second hard-labour yard was occupied by County Court debtors, the part properly devoted to that class being so closely contiguous to the women's prison that it is thought not advisable to keep them in it if room can be found elsewhere. The cookhouse is placed in this division, the infirmary occupying the floor above it. As usual in small establishments, no free cook is employed, but the work is done by two convicted criminals, who are nominally looked after by the turnkey. A very good and clean cooking apparatus has been lately put up, which works very well.

New Cells for Separate system.

At the back part of the prison, already described, a new block has been erected, containing 16 cells, one of which is used as a turnkey's apartment: they are well constructed; measure 13 feet by 7 feet; and contain water-closets, basins, a shelf, table, and seat; are well ventilated and lighted, and supplied with alarums. Finding them fitted in every respect for the Separate form of discipline, I have certified 15 of them with a view to its adoption. The females' prison is arranged in a similar manner to that of the males, and the airing-yards are overlooked in like manner from the apartments of the governor. The first division contains the washhouse; the second is given to untried prisoners; the third to the convicted; and the fourth, as has been said, to County Court debtors. The whole of the accommodation afforded by the prison is as

follows:—for male criminals, 38 sleeping cells, 15 of which are certified for separate confinement, and 5 day-rooms; County Court debtors, 6 sleeping cells, 1 day-room; females, 19 sleeping cells, 3 day-rooms. The cells throughout the old prison are precisely of the same construction; those of the men are warmed by hot-water pipes, and it is intended that those of the females shall be similarly improved.

Prisoners on the day of Inspection.

The prisoners on the day of inspection are shown by the following table:—

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of Swansea on the 21st of September, 1850.

Debtors under 9 & 10 Vict.

Name.	Age.	By what Court committed.	Date of Commitment.	Sentence.
D. T.	57	County Court . .	10 August 1850	28 days' imprisonment, or pay . £2 1 7
J. E.	35	Ditto . . .	25 ,, ,,	28 days' or . 5 16 6
E. C.	46	Ditto . . .	6 Sept. ,,	28 days' or . 2 2 9
J. W.	50	Ditto . . .	27 August ,,	28 days' or . 3 15 4
R. E.	51	Ditto . . .	17 ,, ,,	28 days' or . 8 0 11
G. M.	33	Ditto . . .	9 Sept. ,,	28 days' or . 1 16 0
W. R.	47	Ditto . . .	17 ,, ,,	28 days' or . 1 7 0½

Prisoners for Trial.

Name.	Age.	Specific Offence charged.	Date of Commitment.	Whether for Trial at Assizes or Sessions.
W. B.	17	Stealing a gin	13 July 1850	Quarter Sessions.
B. M.	28	,, money	15 ,, ,,	Ditto.
*E. J.	20	,, edging	22 ,, ,,	Ditto.
*E. P.	18	,, ribbon	5 August ,,	Ditto.
H. L.	22	,, a mare	22 ,, ,,	Ditto.
B. W.	22	,, ditto	22 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. W.	28	,, beef	4 Sept. ,,	Ditto.
R. W.	16	,, money from the person.	7 ,, ,,	Ditto.
E. G.	19	,, trowsers	10 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. B.	23	,, ditto	11 ,, ,,	Ditto.
*J. D.	15	,, a pair of boots. . .	11 ,, ,,	Ditto.
D. M.	50	,, a copper pan . . .	12 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. W.	27	,, money from the person.	13 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. T.	25	,, ditto	13 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. T.	27	,, ditto	13 ,, ,,	Ditto.
H. D.	16	,, a watch with violence.	16 ,, ,,	Assizes.
J. M.	18	,, ditto	16 ,, ,,	Ditto.
T. D.	34	Burglary, and stealing 11*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, &c.	16 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. H.	22	Stealing 3 stockings . . .	20 ,, ,,	Quarter Sessions.

* Females.

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of Swansea on the 21st September, 1850.

Convicted Prisoners.

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether Sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
T. H. .	69	Bestiality	3 April 1847	7 July 1847	Assizes	To be transported for life.
R. W.	20	An assault, on an indictment for stabbing.	22 Dec. 1848	27 Feb. 1849	Ditto . . .	2 years' hard labour.
W. J. .	42	Stealing bacon	14 July 1849	13 Aug. ,,	Ditto . . .	2 ,, ,,
R. H. .	21	Sheep-stealing	31 Aug. ,,	16 Oct. ,,	Quarter Sessions.	18 months' ,,
W. T.	41	Ditto	14 Jan. 1850	19 Feb. 1850	Adjournment of Quarter Sessions.	18 ,, ,,
W. M.	34	Ditto	14 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	18 ,, ,,
T. J. .	20	Burglary	19 ,, ,,	2 March ,,	Assizes	Transportation for 7 years.
*E. G. .	23	Stealing money from the person .	27 Feb. ,,	,, ,,	Ditto . . .	Ditto
*E. S. .	28	Stealing money with violence .	17 Dec. 1849	,, ,,	Ditto . . .	Ditto
J. J. .	49	Malicious shooting	26 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto . . .	1 year to hard labour.
J. H. .	30	Stealing a shawl	14 Mar. 1850	9 April ,,	Quarter Sessions ,	1 year to hard labour, the first 2 days of each month and last 2 days of sentence to be in solitude.
W. L. .	18	,, a waistcoat	16 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto . . .	Ditto.
D. R. .	45	,, fowls	29 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto . . .	6 months' hard labour with solitude, and 6 months' hard labour with solitude after former sentence.
G. R. .	20	,, a hen.	1 April ,,	,, ,,	Ditto . . .	1 year to hard labour with solitude.
*M. D. .	27	,, a watch	14 March ,,	,, ,,	Ditto . . .	6 months' hard labour with solitude.
P. M. .	18	,, an ass	13 April ,,	2 July ,,	Ditto . . .	Ditto.
*J. L. .	27	,, money	9 May ,,	,, ,,	Ditto . . .	Ditto.
M. N. .	18	,, clothes, &c.	22 June ,,	,, ,,	Ditto . . .	Ditto.
*M. R. .	40	,, beer-glasses	27 May ,,	,, ,,	Ditto . . .	4 months' hard labour with solitude.
J. E. .	38	,, clothes	8 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto . . .	Ditto.
D. C. .	20	Receiving stolen money . . .	29 April ,,	,, ,,	Ditto . . .	3 calendar months to hard labour.
W. T.	37	Stealing a shovel	31 May ,,	,, ,,	Ditto . . .	Ditto.

* Females.

Convicted Prisoners, &c.—*continued.*

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether Sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
*M. E.	27	Stealing a watch	12 June 1850	2 July 1850	Quarter Sessions	3 calendar months to hard labour.
J. O.	36	,, trowsers	12 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	3 months' hard labour with solitude.
D. R.	18	,, money	23 May ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
J. C.	19	Ditto	23 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	Dttto.
*A. O.	29	Concealing the birth of 2 children	8 ,, ,,	9 July ,,	Assizes	1 year to hard labour.
*S. T.	46	Stealing coal	8 July ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	6 months' ,,
J. J.	21	Bastardy	18 ,, ,,	..	Summarily	3 months' imprisonment, or pay 1*l.* 19*s.*
E. J.	38	Refusing to find sureties of the peace.	15 Aug. ,,	..	Ditto	2 ,, ,, or find bail.
T. E.	20	Disorderly apprentice	16 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	3 ,, to hard labour.
W. D.	19	An assault	17 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	2 months' imprisonmt. or pay 3*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*
W. O.	19	Ditto	17 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	6 weeks' imprisonmt. or pay 2*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*
*H. J.	18	Ditto	17 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	Ditto
T. H.	48	Ditto	17 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	2 months' imprisonmt. or pay 5*l.*
J. R.	47	Refusing to find sureties of the peace.	23 Aug. ,,	..	Ditto	6 ,, ,, or find bail.
W. E.	22	Bastardy	24 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	2 ,, ,, or pay 3*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*
T. T.	37	Deserting his family	24 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	1 month to hard labour.
*M. G.	28	Disorderly prostitute	29 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	Ditto.
*E. S.	24	Deserting her infant	4 Sept. ,,	..	Ditto	Ditto.
E. M.	38	,, his family	5 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	Ditto.
C. T.	28	Ditto	5 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	Ditto.
W. H.	52	An assault	10 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	6 weeks' imprisonment, or pay 3*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*
T. D.	35	Bastardy	13 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	3 months' ,, ,, 2*l.* 4*s.* 3*d*
J. L.	17	Poaching	14 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	14 days' hard labour, or pay 2*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*
W. P.	38	Begging	16 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	1 month to hard labour.
W. B.	10	Breaking a window	21 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	14 days' hard labour, or pay 9*s.* 6*d.*
S. G.	19	An assault	21 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	14 days' imprisonment, or pay 12*s.* 6*d.*

* Females.

The chapel, which is situated over the governor's apartment, is approached by a high staircase from the area behind. It is extremely inconvenient, being too small for the number of prisoners, having no separation between the several classes, except that of the women from the men, and being very low and confined: there is no part of the prison that stands more in need of improvement.

The prisoners, on being questioned, made no complaints of any kind.

The following table shows the comparative number of committals in two successive years:—

TOTAL Number of Prisoners in Confinement in the course of the Years ending at Michaelmas 1849 and 1850.

	1849			1850		
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Male.	Fem.	Total.
CRIMINAL PRISONERS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year:—						
Prisoners for Trial	16	6	22	6	5	11
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions	23	3	26	24	5	29
Summarily Convicted	13	5	18	6	1	7
Received under Commitments and who have not been in the Custody of other Governors:—						
Prisoners for Trial	69	21	90	63	22	85
Rendered in Court for Trial	16	16	32	12	6	18
Summarily Convicted	96	16	112	146	21	167
Received from other Governors, and enumerated in their Returns:—						
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions	46	24	70	70	23	93
Total of Criminals	279	91	370	327	83	410
DEBTORS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year	..	..	..	3	..	3
Admitted in the course of the Year	33	2	35	24	3	27
Total of Debtors and Criminals	312	93	405	354	86	440
Deaths in the course of the Year	3	3	6	1	..	1
Prisoners pardoned on Medical grounds	..	..	..	1	..	1
Greatest Number at any one time:—						
Criminal Prisoners	77	27	104	70	24	94
Debtors	3	2	5	7	..	7

The prisoners are required to wash themselves daily in a bucket in the yard, which is a very objectionable method, since they are not only open to observation from the governor's house, but are seen by one another. There is a single bath, in which prisoners are bathed on admission, and once a month afterwards. Cleanliness.

There are three sorts of prison dresses for the men; grey for the Clothing and Bedding.

untried, red for convicted misdemeanants, and a mixture of red, black, and white for convicted felons. Female prisoners of all classes have dresses of the same colour. All prisoners of both sexes wear clogs all the year round, and none of either sex are allowed stockings or socks—a departure from the practice of the county gaol of Cardiff for which no good reason appears to be assigned. Many of the women were walking about barefoot, being unable to wear clogs, from the injury their feet had derived from them. The want of stockings was the more felt from some of the females who possessed their own being allowed to wear them. In the old prison all sleep on iron bedsteads; in the new, on hammocks of a peculiar construction, having a lining of manilla fibre quilted upon the inner surface, as a substitute for a mattress: the hammocks of this kind are described as being very comfortable. Each prisoner is allowed a sheet, a sufficient number of blankets, and a coverlet.

Diet. Prisoners confined for less than 15 days have 1½ lb. of bread, with ¼ lb. of oatmeal in gruel, daily. Those for longer periods have in addition, on alternate days, dinners of soup, cheese, and potatoes, the soup containing 4 oz. of beef, 2 oz. of barley and other vegetables, while the dinner of the alternate days consists of 4 oz. of cheese and 1 lb. of potatoes. The weekly allowance of the short-sentenced prisoners costs 1*s.* 4½*d.*, that of the long-sentenced 2*s.* The introduction of the low diet for short-sentenced prisoners is a great improvement on the practice of the county gaol, and is calculated to diminish the number of commitments for vagrancy and poorhouse offences.

Moral and Religious Instruction. The chaplain, who is also vicar of the parish, is only required to attend twice a week for the performance of Divine Service, when he does not preach a sermon; he visits some of the prisoners in their cells, but it is impossible that he can do much duty of the latter description, from the short duration and infrequency of his visits. No schoolmaster or mistress is engaged, although the former appointment is expressly required by law. The supply of books is sufficient, but no instruction is given to the prisoners, except that imparted by one to another, contrary to the express conditions of the Act cited above in the report upon the County gaol of Cardiff. The want of sufficient instruction, moral, religious, and secular, is a crying evil both in this prison and that of Cardiff; and it is very desirable that schoolmasters should be appointed, and the salaries of the chaplains raised to such an amount as to justify the magistrates in calling upon those gentlemen for daily attendance and increased spiritual instruction to the prisoners.

Punishments. Punishments are not frequent, and never exceed three days in a dark cell, with bread and water. The surgeon, however, is not required to visit prisoners under punishment—a useful precaution generally observed elsewhere.

Health. The surgeon generally visits the prison twice a week, and is sent for at other times when wanted; he is not called upon, as required

by law, to examine prisoners on their admission, neither are there any reception-cells in which prisoners could be detained preparatory to such examination. Both these omissions require remedy. Forty-five cases of cholera occurred in the prison in July, 1849, during the time that the epidemic prevailed so fatally in the town; of these five only were fatal.

Labour.

No description of labour is practised here, except that of the treadmill, which is entirely unproductive; 4 or 5 only could work at the time of my visit, in consequence of one of the labour-yards being occupied by the County Court debtors. There appears to be no sufficient reason why the picking of oakum, which is found so profitable at Cardiff, should not be introduced here.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted in round numbers to 1378*l.*, the following being some of the items:—

	£.
Salaries and pensions	457
Diet	311
Clothing and bedding	39
Fuel, light, and soap	78
Stationery and books	33
Removal of prisoners for trial	91
Repairs and alterations	123
Sundries	98

The receipts in the same period amounted to about 361*l.*, of which nearly 356*l.* were received from the Government for prisoners' maintenance and the removal of transports. The books are well kept and readily furnish any information required. The provisions are bought by contract, the last contract prices being as follows:—

Oatmeal	18*s.* per cwt.
Beef	2½*d.* per lb.
Bread	1⅞*d.* per 1½ lb. loaf.

General Observations.

The great increase in the population and commercial importance of Glamorganshire has caused of late years a corresponding increase in the number of commitments, and renders it a matter of deep regret that the faulty construction and insufficient size of the county prisons preclude the adoption of any discipline calculated either to repress crime or to improve the character of the criminal. A small beginning has been made in this prison, by the erection of the new portion of the building above referred to, and a considerable plot of ground adjoining the prison boundary has been purchased upon very favourable terms by the county magistrates, naturally foreseeing the probable necessity of a considerable extension of the prison accommodation. It is not, however, in space alone that the prison is deficient, for, as has been shown above, the imperfections of the staff of officers and other arrangements make it impossible to attain even those improvements of which the present construction of the building would admit.

The staff of the prison consists of the governor, matron, chap-

lain, surgeon, and three male turnkeys, the matron having no assistance from any other female officer. I may further observe, that the same disproportion exists between the salaries of the clerical and lay officers at this prison as at the County Gaol of Cardiff.

The county Quarter Sessions have been heretofore held at Swansea, Neath, Cowbridge, and Cardiff alternately, causing much unnecessary expense and risk in the removal of prisoners to and from the courts. It has now been wisely determined to hold them invariably at Swansea and Cardiff, by which these great objections will be obviated.

SWANSEA.—DEBTORS' PRISON FOR THE LIBERTY OF GOWER.

This prison is the sole property of his Grace the Duke of Beaufort, at whose expense it is maintained, and who has the custody of all debtors committed to it, as Lord of the Seigniory of Gower and Kilvey. The charter from which this power is derived is dated the 5th of James I., and was afterwards confirmed by an inspeximus in the 32nd of Charles II. The gaoler, who does not reside upon the premises, is appointed and paid by the Duke, and is not entitled to receive any fees on the committal or discharge of debtors.

The keep of the castle of Swansea, which is used for the purposes of this prison, is extremely ill adapted for the confinement of prisoners, no officer having charge of them residing on the premises, or visiting the prison, except for the purpose of conveying food to the inmates. It is surrounded on three sides by a barrack and barrack-yard, for which purpose the remainder of the castle has long been employed. In a former Report many of the inconveniences of this arrangement were pointed out, and suggestions were made, by the adoption of which they would have been materially mitigated. At my recent visit, however, I found that no alteration had taken place in consequence of these suggestions; and as I can see no advantage in the present system which compensates for its numerous inconveniences, I feel it my duty to state my opinion that it would conduce much to order and public convenience that the debtors of the Liberty of Gower should be committed, like other debtors of the county, to the custody of the sheriff, and lodged in the county gaol. I cannot anticipate that any merely formal objections could be made to stand in the way of so beneficial a change.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

MONTGOMERY.—COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Prison Buildings.

THIS building is adapted for carrying out the old associated system of discipline, and therefore consists of sleeping cells, in which prisoners are lodged either singly or in greater numbers, day-rooms, and airing-yards, in which they are congregated when not locked up in their cells; a low boundary wall surrounds the building, affording very little additional security to the higher walls of the airing-yards within. The prison contains four divisions for male prisoners, two for females, besides one for debtors, each having a day-room and airing-yard. The first division, called the transport-yard, is used for transports and other convicted prisoners; 10 sleeping cells belong to this division, one of which contains three beds—the remainder, one in each. These cells, however, are not strictly limited to that division, but are used also for untried prisoners. The third yard is devoted to convicted prisoners, and contains a treadmill. The fourth is devoted to prisoners summarily convicted, and also contains a treadmill. Over the treadmill first described is situated the infirmary for male prisoners, and two large unappropriated rooms occupy the same situation with reference to the other treadmill and the central machinery. I may here remark that so noisy a situation is very ill adapted for an infirmary.

The division for females is very defective, both from being too confined and from the too near proximity to the part of the prison devoted to males. The convicted females have three sleeping-rooms over their day-room: the unconvicted sleep in two small cells on the ground floor. There being no special accommodation for female debtors, that class of prisoners sleep in the part appropriated to criminals. A female debtor, in confinement at the time of my last inspection, justly complained that she was so placed as to be obliged to overhear the conversation of the criminals, and that she had no place of exercise apart from them. The male debtors are better accommodated than any other class in the prison.

Prisoners on the day of Inspection.

Thirty-one criminal prisoners and three debtors were in confinement at the time of my last inspection, particulars of whose cases are shown in the following table:—

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of Montgomery on the 7th of June, 1850.

Prisoners for Trial.

Name.	Age.	Specific Offence charged.	Date of Commitment.	Whether for Trial at Assizes or Sessions.
		MALES.		
T. B.	18			
G. W.	20	Stealing a sheep . . .	17 April 1850	Sessions.
J. S.	19			
J. M.	14	Stealing money . . .	26 ,, ,,	Ditto.
E. W.	27	,, an umbrella . .	3 May ,,	Ditto.
E. R.	25	,, flour from a warehouse	23 April ,,	Ditto.
T. O.	55	,, ducks . . .	27 May ,,	Ditto.
T. P.	14	Uttering counterfeit coin .	29 ,, ,,	Ditto.
A. W.	27	Felonious assault . . .	31 ,, ,,	Ditto.
		FEMALES.		
S. T.	33	Stealing a gold ring . .	11 May 1850	Ditto.
J. G.	18	,, money . . .	25 ,, ,,	Ditto.
H. C.	33	Uttering counterfeit coin .	29 ,, ,,	Ditto.
		DEBTORS.—MALES.		
T. R.	..	.. ..	7 May 1850	In execution.
E. W.	..	.. ..	,, ,, ,,	Ditto.
		FEMALES.		
H. F.	..	.. ..	29 April 1850	Contempt of Court.

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of Montgomery on the 7th of June, 1850.

Convicted Prisoners.

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
S. P.	64	Stealing wearing apparel .	18 Jan. 1849	23 Feb. 1849	Sessions .	7 years' transport.
J. D.	39	,, an ox . . .	10 Nov. ,,	3 Jan. 50	Ditto . .	6 months' hard lab.
W. S.	59	,, a goose . . .	4 Dec. ,,	,, ,,	Ditto . .	Ditto.
J. P.	20	,, fowls . . .	26 Feb. 1850	7 Mar. ,,	Ditto . .	3 days' imprisonment and 7 years' transp.
T. M.	20	,, ,, . . .	26 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto . .	6 months' hard lab.
T. D.	18	,, tea . . .	7 Mar. ,,	,, ,,	Ditto . .	Ditto.
M. T.	21	,, wheat . . .	12 ,, ,,	12 Mar. ,,	Assizes. .	3 Ditto.
T. H.	34	Manslaughter . . .	13 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto . .	Ditto.
R. R.	35	Stealing a tin bottle . .	22 ,, ,,	11 Apr. ,,	Sessions .	6 Ditto.
R. H.	37	Wilful damage . . .	15 Apr. ,,	. .	Summarily	2 Ditto.
R. J.	20	Assault on an officer . .	8 May ,,	. .	Ditto . .	1 Ditto.
D. O.	22	Trespass in quest of game	20 Apr. ,,	. .	Ditto . .	2 months' imprisont.
H. P.	24	Vagrancy	24 May ,,	. .	Ditto . .	21 days' hard labour.
E. B.	28	Stealing rhubarb . . .	29 ,, ,,	. .	Ditto . .	4 months' hard labur.
J. E.	71	Poaching	29 ,, ,,	. .	Ditto . .	2 months' imprison.
W. J.	51	Refusing to find sureties .	5 June ,,	. .	Ditto . .	7 days' imprisonmnt.
R. E.	28	Ditto	6 ,, ,,	. .	Ditto . .	14 ditto.
		FEMALES.				
E. C.	31	Stealing potatoes. . .	12 Mar. 1850	12 Mar. 1850	Assizes. .	3 months' hard lab.
M. F.	20	,, a gown . . .	22 ,, ,,	11 Apr. ,,	Sessions .	Ditto.

One of the transports mentioned in the above list was convicted a year ago, but is unfit to be removed, from being the subject of epilepsy.

The whole number in confinement in each of the last two years is shown in the following table:—

TOTAL Number of Prisoners in Confinement in the course of the Years ending at Michaelmas, 1849 and 1850.

	1849			1850		
	Males.	Fem.	Total.	Males.	Fem.	Total.
CRIMINAL PRISONERS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year:—						
Prisoners for Trial	6	4	10	7	..	7
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions	9	3	12	11	..	11
Summarily Convicted	7	..	7	6	5	11
Received under commitments and who have not been in the custody of other Governors:						
Prisoners for Trial	41	6	47	43	11	54
Rendered in Court for Trial	16	4	20	22	6	28
Summarily Convicted	102	22	124	144	25	169
Committed for Examination, but afterwards Discharged, not being fully Committed	2	1	3	6	..	6
Total of Criminals	183	40	223	239	47	286
DEBTORS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year	5	..	5	2	..	2
Admitted in the course of the Year	13	..	13	10	1	11
Total of Debtors and Criminals.	201	40	241	251	48	299
Deaths in the course of the Year	2	..	2	..	..	..
Prisoners pardoned on Medical grounds	3	..	3	1	..	1
Greatest number at any one time:—						
Criminal Prisoners	32	8	40	40	4	44
Debtors.	6	..	6	2	1	3

Cleanliness.

The wards and persons of the prisoners were far from cleanly, a remark which is still more applicable to the bedding, which was extremely dirty, a circumstance mainly attributable to the want of sheets, which are only allowed to debtors and to the sick. Independently of the advantage arising from the use of sheets on the score of cleanliness, their employment would also be advantageous on the ground of economy, as a proper and wholesome state of cleanliness cannot be maintained in the blankets, when sheets are not used, without such frequent washing as must soon destroy them. The stockings of the prisoners are so much worn

by their clogs, that it would probably be more economical to give them shoes.

Diet. The diet of the prisoners is extremely objectionable, from its containing no potato or other anti-scorbutic ingredient. It appeared on inquiry that potatoes had originally formed a part of the diet of prisoners, but they had been discontinued for more than three months on account of their scarcity. Upon this I beg to observe that no such alteration in the diet of prisoners can legally be made without the authority of the Secretary of State, by whom neither the original dietary of the prison nor its subsequent alteration has been sanctioned. The provisions are all bought by contract, the prices being as follows:—Flour 28*s*. 6*d*. per sack, meat 5*d*. per lb., oatmeal 24*s*. per sack of 245 lbs., peas 19*s*. for the same quantity, potatoes 4*s*. 3*d*. for 90 lbs.

Health. The surgeon is required to attend three times a week, and as much oftener as may be necessary. He is not required to see prisoners on admission, or to keep a registry of their state of health. The surgeon's salary is only 30*l*. per annum, and he pays for the medicines. The number of visits recorded in his journal has amounted to no less that 218. The health of this prison cannot be considered satisfactory, when viewed with reference to the nature and severity of the diseases prevalent in the year, or to the condition of the prisoners at the time of my inspection. The following list, furnished to me by the surgeon, exhibits the amount of sick cases during the previous year, and, taken in connection with the occurrence of two deaths and three pardons on medical grounds in the course of the year, must be considered as indicative of an unusual prevalence of serious illness:—

Cases of indigestion (some of them attended with great debility)	19
Cases of bronchitis and catarrh (some attended with great debility)	17
Diarrhœa	8
Rheumatism	3
Venereal and gonorrhœa	3
Ophthalmia	3
Diseased heart	2
Hernia (one operation successful)	2
Asthma	2
English cholera	1
Hepatitis, with some malignant disease of the liver	1
Enteritis	1
Diabetes	1
Phthisis	1
Cholic	1
Dropsy (general)	1
Case of pregnancy delivery in gaol	1
Cases of a more trifling nature	30
Total	97

Deaths in the course of the Year ending Michaelmas, 1849.

Name.	Age.	Offence and Sentence.	Date of Committal.	State of Health on Committal.	Date of Death.	How long in Infirmary before death.	Disease or other cause of Death.
M. D. .	20	Housebreaking, and sentenced to 7 years' transportation.	25 May 1848	Good	24 July 1849	3 months . .	Consumption.
E. E. .	23	Stealing wheat and oatmeal, and sentenced to 6 calendar months.	26 March 1849	Good	25 July 1849	3 weeks . .	Diseased Liver.

Pardons on Medical Grounds in the course of the same Year.

Name.	Age.	Offence and Sentence.	Date of Committal.	State of Health on Committal.	Disease and the presumed cause thereof.	Date of Admission into Infirmary.	Date of Pardon.
T. L. .	37	Forgery, and sentenced to 10 years' transportation.	18 Dec. 1847	Bad . . .	Indigestion and liver disease.	20 Feb. 1848	24 Jan . 1849
R. O. .	28	Housebreaking, and sentenced to 7 years' transportation.	8 March 1848	Bad . . .	Chronic gastritis from want of nourishment.	22 March 1848	,, ,,
R. J. .	55	Stealing a mare, and sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment.	3 April 1849	Tolerably good.	General debility .	21 July 1849	17 Sept. 1849

Moral and Religious Instruction.

The chaplain performs Divine Service once on Sundays, Good Friday, and Christmas-day. He also comes occasionally at irregular times, to hear the prisoners say their Catechism, and to admonish them. This occurs generally once a week only, unless the severe illness of a prisoner should require a special attendance. The prison library consists of the Bible, the Prayer-book, Hartwell Horne's Psalms, the Prisoner's Companion, the Prisoner's Manual, the Book of Nature, some numbers of Chambers' Edinburgh Journal, and the London Spelling-book. The privilege of ordering books is confined to the chaplain. Eight shillings were so expended in the last year.

No secular instruction of any value is given to the prisoners, there being no schoolmaster or schoolmistress employed. Contrary to the express provisions of an Act of Parliament, the prisoners are allowed to teach each other, the Church Catechism being one of the subjects of instruction intrusted to this unusual channel of communication. The impropriety of this arrangement needs no comment, and I feel it my duty to recommend that the appointment of a schoolmaster should be made forthwith, to avoid further violation of the law in this respect. In this opinion I am not supported by the chaplain, who thinks the appointment of a schoolmaster undesirable, and would prefer that one of the turnkeys should be allowed to give up some portion of his time to the purposes of instruction, receiving some small additional remuneration. To this I would object, that the time of the turnkeys is already fully occupied in their other duties, and, moreover, that the qualities required in a teacher are seldom found in a turnkey.

Punishments.

The punishments appear to be few in number, but they are not recorded in any register except when ordered by the magistrates, the governor not having been aware of the necessity for so doing. This omission will be remedied in future. There is great want of a refractory-cell on the level of the courts and out of hearing of the other prisoners.

Labour.

The only labour performed in the prison is that of the treadmill, of which there are two, as above described. Upon that designed for convicted felons two were working at the time of my inspection, and the same number were awaiting their turn of labour. Upon the treadmill in the adjoining yard two men summarily convicted were employed, and, as before, two others were waiting to relieve them. It will be seen by the above list that there were at the period referred to 13 male prisoners in confinement, upon whom hard labour should have been inflicted in conformity with their sentences—five of these, therefore, were, from inability or other causes, excused. These, together with the four convicted prisoners not sentenced to labour, and the nine who were awaiting their trials, were in a state of perfect idleness, as no description of light labour is practised, nor are any means of employment provided for untried prisoners, nor any instruction beyond the

meagre amount referred to above. It is the duty of one of the turnkeys to overlook the prisoners engaged in both the treadmills (a duty which no one person can perfectly perform), that the prisoners in neither may be left without supervision. On the day preceding that of my last inspection the head turnkey had had his foot seriously injured by the machinery of the treadmill, and was thereby nearly disabled from duty. It would appear to be superfluous to point out the inadequacy of such arrangements as have been described to carry out any effectual discipline, whether punitive or reformatory.

Expenditure and Receipts.

The total expenditure of the prison in the past year amounted to 723*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, the following being some of the principal items:

	£.
Prisoners' diet	178
Clothing and bedding	72
Fuel, light, and soap	59
Repairs	52
Officers' salaries and pensions	275
Sundries	20

The receipts of the prison for the same period amounted to 94*l.* 14*s.*, the whole of which came from the Treasury for the maintenance of convicted prisoners: the removal of transports not having been paid for, and the labour of the prisoners having been entirely unproductive.

Debtors.

The accommodation for male debtors is more than sufficient for the numbers likely to be confined at any one time, and much might be done in changing the appropriation of a part of it, so as to increase the females' prison. At a meeting of the Visiting Magistrates, held several years ago, at which I had the honour of attending with the late Lord Lieutenant of the county, this point was unanimously agreed to, and the county surveyor, in consequence, prepared plans for the alteration, but nothing further has yet been done to carry out the resolutions of the meeting.

General Observations.

The staff of the prison, consisting of the governor, the matron, the chaplain, the surgeon, and two male turnkeys, is quite insufficient for the maintenance of any proper discipline. The discipline adopted is professedly that known by the name of the "silent system," but it is obvious that silence cannot be in any degree maintained by two turnkeys in a prison in which the inmates are confined in many divisions, and that the discipline professed must be, on this account, entirely nugatory.

The rules for the government of the prison and the conduct of the several officers have received the sanction of the Secretary of State, but they are not sent up annually for revision, as required by law, neither are any regulations for the conduct and treatment of prisoners suspended in the cells or day-rooms, or in any other parts of the prison accessible to prisoners. These omissions involve a violation of Acts of Parliament, and should therefore be supplied without loss of time.

The Visiting Justices are changed monthly, and their regular meetings are held monthly, so that, unless they volunteer additional attendances, each will only see the prison once during his tenure of office. It would appear likely to increase the efficiency of the superintending body, that the duties of Visiting Justices should be held, as in most other prisons, for half a year or a year at a time.

MERIONETHSHIRE.

DOLGELLY.—COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

No changes have been made in the building since the last Report, but some parts have been differently appropriated. The landing at the top of the staircase has been converted to the purposes of a chapel, two or three partitions having been put on the side opposite the pulpit, to effect a little separation of the prisoners, but the contrivance is altogether bad and ineffective. A part of the infirmary has been taken as a day-room for the County Court debtors, of whom one was in confinement at the time of the last inspection; his bed-room contained, besides his bed, two others, which were used by criminal prisoners—a mode of association which is not authorized by law. The proper debtors' apartments, with their airing-yard, have been given up to convicted criminals, four of whom were confined in it at the time of my inspection, and with them two others then awaiting their trials; thus further violating the law, by the association of untried with convicted prisoners. In the yard belonging to this division, a large cistern, which formerly stood in the corner, and which was supposed to offer facilities for escape, has been removed into the middle of the yard, which is alluded to more especially with a view of noticing a simple and effectual contrivance by which it is kept constantly full, by means of a small under-ground communication with a cistern without the walls—an arrangement worthy of imitation, whenever it is an object to save labour in supplying water, in situations where the fall of the ground makes it practicable. The day-room belonging to the felons' yard has been given up, with an adjoining room, for the use of a turnkey, an officer recently added to the staff of the prison. The position of this room enables the turnkey to overlook the prisoners of that single yard, but the remaining divisions of the prison are without any supervision, except by the occasional rounds of the governor. Some additional chevaux-de-frise have been put up on the boundary wall, to prevent escape; but the wall itself is so badly built, that there would be little difficulty in breaching it at any part, if any serious attempt were made by a prisoner; attempts at escape, however, are not common, which may probably be attributed to the fact that no discipline is maintained in the prison likely to render a residence there peculiarly irksome. The

magistrates having intended to build six separate cells in the yard on the south-east side, the plan was submitted for the sanction of the Secretary of State; but it having been objected to on the ground of the ventilation and warming not being sufficiently considered, a more comprehensive plan is now under consideration. Much space is lost in this very small and ill-constructed prison in halls and passages, which occupy a very considerable part of its area. The building is generally in good repair, with the exception of leaking pipes and gutters, which should be attended to.

The following list exhibits the prisoners in confinement on the day of inspection, with their offences and sentences:— Prisoners on the day of Inspection.

Prisoners for Trial.

Name.	Age.	Specific Offence charged.	Date of Commitment.	Whether for Trial at Assizes or Sessions.
D. R.	35	Assault	21 May, 1850	Sessions.
E. J.	30	Perjury	5 June, ,,	Assizes.

Convicted Prisoners.

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
W. J.	20	Housebreaking	13 June, 1849	6 July, 1849		
J. G.	33	Misdemeanour in being found in a house with unlawful intentions.	23 Oct. ,,	4 Jan. 1850	Sessions Ditto	18 months' hard labour. 9 ,,
W. T.	37	Ditto			Ditto	9 ,,
I. J.	26	Embezzlement	23 Jan. ,, 1850	15 Mar. ,,	Assizes	3 ,,
P. L. R.	23	Stealing a watch	2 Feb. ,,	,,	Ditto	12 ,,
W. J.	21	Breaking into an outhouse	22 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	12 ,,
T. J.	21	Ditto	,,	,,	Ditto	12 ,,
O. P.	15	Cutting and stealing wood	7 May, ,,	,,	Summarily	2 ,,
W. P.	14	Ditto	,,		Ditto	2 ,,
W. A.	29	Breaking windows	23 ,, ,,		Ditto	2 ,,
			DEBTOR.			
D. D.	52		28 May, 1850		By County Court	40 days.

The total number of prisoners in confinement in the last two years is shown in the following table:—

TOTAL Number of Prisoners in Confinement in the course of the Years ending at Michaelmas 1849 and 1850.

	1849			1850		
	Males.	Fem.	Total.	Males.	Fem.	Total.
CRIMINAL PRISONERS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year:—						
Prisoners for Trial	1	..	1	1	..	1
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions .	2	..	2	5	2	7
Summarily Convicted	2	..	2	..	..	..
Received under Commitments and who have not been in the Custody of other Governors:—						
Prisoners for Trial	6	..	6	18	..	18
Rendered in Court for Trial. . .	2	5	7	3	..	3
Summarily Convicted	15	4	19	14	..	14
Total of Criminals .	28	9	37	41	2	43
DEBTORS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year	2	..	2	2	..	2
Admitted in the course of the Year .	7	..	7	10	..	10
Total of Debtors and Criminals.	37	9	46	53	2	55
Prisoners pardoned on Medical grounds	..	..	..	1	1	2
Greatest number at any one time:—						
Criminal Prisoners	9	2	11	14	..	14
Debtors	3	..	3	2	..	2

Cleanliness. The prisoners are bathed in a slipper-bath once a month, or oftener if required; they wash daily in a trough in the airing-yard. The prison, generally, was clean and orderly.

Clothing and Bedding. The stock of prison clothing has been increased of late, and is now tolerably sufficient. Convicted prisoners are all dressed in parti-coloured suits, and are allowed clogs and stockings, the latter being prevented from wearing by having a piece of fustian sewn on the heel. Flannel shirts are also allowed, but are very deficient in quantity. Untried prisoners are allowed, at their own request, to wear the prison dress. The bedding is sufficient in quantity, but no sheets are allowed—an uncleanly prohibition, which has also the disadvantage of being opposed to economy.

Diet. There are three scales of diet, as follow:—

Prisoners confined for any Term not exceeding 14 *Days.*

Breakfast—One pint of oatmeal gruel, and six oz. of bread.
Dinner—One pint of broth, or soup, and six oz. of bread.
Supper—Same as breakfast.

Prisoners for Trial, and those Convicted for any Term exceeding 14 Days without Labour.

Breakfast—One pint of oatmeal gruel, and six oz. of bread.
Dinner—Eight oz. of bread, and four oz. of cheese.
Supper—Same as breakfast.

Or one quart of pea-soup, or broth, and four oz. of bread; or three oz. of bacon meat, without bone, and one pound and a half of boiled rice, may be substituted for bread and cheese.

Potatoes may be issued for dinner, in the proportion of one pound and a half of potatoes to half pound of bread.

Boiled rice may be issued instead of bread, in the proportion of 24 oz. of boiled rice to eight oz. of bread. One quart of milk, and eight oz. of bread, may be issued once a-week, in lieu of either of the above dinners.

Gruel—Three oz. of meal to one quart.
Pea-soup—Three oz. of meat, half-pint of peas, and vegetables, to the quart.
Broth—Four oz. of meat (without bone), oatmeal, and vegetables to the quart.

Prisoners sentenced to Hard Labour.

Six oz. of bread per diem in addition.

Upon this I would observe, first, that the dietary has not received the sanction of the Secretary of State, and, secondly, that the allowance of potatoes, which is so necessary to prevent the occurrence of scurvy, should not be discretionary.

Health.

The surgeon visits the prison twice a week, or oftener if occasion may require, but he is not called upon to examine prisoners on admission or discharge, neither does he enter in his journal the medicines prescribed for the sick, as required by law. The surgeon's salary, however (10*l.*), is too low for much to be expected of him, especially as he has to provide the medicines for the sick. The prison is very healthy.

Moral and Religious Instruction.

The chaplain is only required to attend on Sunday, when he performs the full service and preaches a sermon. He does not visit the prison during the week, except on very rare occasions. There is no schoolmaster employed, and the prisoners receive no instruction, except that which is voluntarily given them by the governor at irregular times; and this is probably quite ineffectual to any moral end, as the prisoners are associated together without any proper supervision. There are scarcely any books in the prison, nor would they be of much avail, as few could read them.

Punishments.

Prison offences are punished either by the offenders being kept longer at their work, or by their being deprived of a part of their food. In a late instance, in October last, when an outbreak was contemplated, the offenders were kept in irons by the governor for three weeks, no formal authority having been given by the magistrates, as required by law, for this long continuance of restraint, but I ascertained that the fact had been notified to the magistrates by the governor. It may be well to remark in this place, that by the 2 & 3 Vict., cap. 56, sec. 6, clause 6, no prisoner can be kept in irons for more than 24 hours without an order in writing from a Visiting Justice, specifying the cause thereof, and the time during which the prisoner is to be kept in irons.

Labour. There is no treadmill or other machine labour practised in the prison, the prisoners sentenced to hard labour being employed generally in breaking stones, and the rest in picking wool, including the untried prisoners, who, however, are not so employed without their own consent. The wool-picking is slightly remunerative, and the broken stones are used in repairing the county roads.

Expenditure. The total expenditure in the past year amounted to 324*l.* 6*s.*, exclusive of 31*l.* expended in repairs. The principal items, in round numbers, were as follows:—

	£.
Prison diet	71
Clothing and bedding	11
Fuel, light, and soap	29
Officers' salaries	142
Sundries	18

The receipts in the same period amounted to 81*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, including—

	£.
Profits of prisoners' earnings	7
Maintenance of convicted prisoners	31
Removal of transports	39

The books have not hitherto been well kept, but a new set of registers has been ordered. The articles for the use of the prison are not bought by contract.

Debtors. There is no classification of the several classes of debtors, and the apartments generally occupied by females (of whom there were none in confinement) have been given up to the male debtors.

General Observations. The appointment of the turnkey, which was first made permanent in the last year, has somewhat improved the means of discipline, but the faults of construction, which seem unsusceptible of remedy without entirely rebuilding the gaol, make it impossible to maintain any classification, and it can hardly be said that any discipline exists. The rules of the prison have never been certified by the Secretary of State. Among other omissions it is important to remark upon the unfrequency of the attendance of the Visiting Justices, no visit being recorded in their journal between the 22nd of December, 1848, and the 1st of March, 1849, nor any between the 6th of October, 1849, and the 22nd of January, 1850. With reference to this point, the rules suspended in the prison contain a request that "the visiting and other magistrates be requested to inspect the state of the gaol as frequently as possible," to ascertain how the regulations have been observed. This is the more necessary as one of the same regulations provides that, if any prisoner "shall not in all things conduct himself with proper decorum, he shall be punished by closer confinement, *heavier irons*, or by withholding the county allowance, at the discretion of the gaoler, until he can make his report to the visiting magistrates." It is obvious that the law above alluded to is liable to continual violation, from the

unfrequent opportunities afforded to the gaoler of reporting to the Visiting Justices.

The staff of the prison consists even now of no more than the following officers :—Governor, chaplain, surgeon, and one turnkey, no person being paid to perform the duties of matron or of schoolmaster.

PEMBROKESHIRE.

HAVERFORDWEST.—COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

No alteration has taken place in the construction of this prison since it was fully described in the 14th Report. All the defects therein pointed out still continue without remedy,

The following is a list of prisoners present at the last inspection, with some particulars of their several cases :— Prisoners on the day of Inspection.

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of Haverfordwest on the 23rd of September, 1850.

Prisoners for Trial.

Name.	Age.	Specific Offence charged.	Date of Commitment.	Whether for Trial at Assizes or Sessions.
J. P.. .	38	Stealing shirts . .	30 July 1850	Sessions . . .
T. R. .	16	,, a pair of shoes	23 Aug. ,,	Ditto . . .
S. T. .	30	Rape	19 Sept. ,,	Assizes . . .
J. D. .	28	Ditto	19 ,, ,,	Ditto . . .
L. L. .	77	(A lunatic who has been 42 years confined here, although not charged with any offence. His case is detailed in the 14th Report, page 57.)		

Debtors.

Name.	When received into Custody.	At whose Suit committed.	Amount of Debt.	By what Court Process was issued.	Further Particulars.
			£. s. d.		
W. T. . .	23 Feb. 1849	The Crown .	626 14 6	Exchequer . .	This man was employed in smuggling tobacco.
D. L. . .	,, ,,	,, . .	707 8 9	Ditto . . .	Ditto.
J. C. . .	16 Sept. 1850	George Parry .	10 1 6	County Court .	To be imprisoned 15 days.

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of Haverfordwest on the 23rd of September, 1850.

Convicted Prisoners.

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether Sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
W. T.	52	Stealing a horse	7 May 1849	21 July 1849	Assizes	2 years' imprisonment, with hard labour.
M. G..	17	,, wearing apparel	19 Mar. 1850	9 Apr. 1850	Sessions	1 year's ditto.
J. W..	26	,, in a shop	25 ,, ,,	9 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto, with hard labour.
J. R..	18	Riot	17 Apr. ,,	2 July ,,	Ditto	4 calendar months' imprisonment.
W. B.	27	Assaulting a constable	15 May ,,	5 ,, ,,	Ditto	3 ditto.
W. J..	45	Stealing shoemakers' tools	25 ,, ,,	2 ,, ,,	Ditto	3 ditto with hard labour.
M. H..	39	Concealing the birth of her child	19 June ,,	19 ,, ,,	Assizes	18 ditto ditto.
J. R. .	25	Stealing clothes	20 ,, ,,	2 ,, ,,	Sessions	1 year with hard lab., 4 weeks' solitude.
H. A. P.	26	Ditto	20 ,, ,,	2 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
J. B. .	31	Deserting her infant bastard child	29 ,, ,,	29 June ,,	Summarily	3 calendar months with hard labour.
H. W.	30	Ditto	19 July ,,	19 July ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
T. W..	19	Being a rogue and vagabond	23 ,, ,,	23 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
J. G. .	39	Want of sureties to keep the peace	25 ,, ,,	25 ,, ,,	Ditto	6 cal. months' imprison. or find sureties.
M. O.	58	Breach of the revenue laws	29 ,, ,,	7 May ,,	Ditto	3 ditto ditto or pay 50*l.*
M. H.	47	Ditto	29 ,, ,,	7 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
W. J..	61	Want of sureties to keep the peace	30 ,, ,,	30 July ,,	Ditto	12 ditto ditto or find sureties.
G. R..	50	Being a rogue and vagabond	2 Aug. ,,	2 Aug. ,,	Ditto	3 ditto ditto with hard lab.
M. N.	20	Deserting her infant bastard child	3 ,, ,,	3 ,, ,,	Ditto	2 ditto.
P. D..	23	Assault	7 ,, ,,	7 ,, ,,	Ditto	2 ditto ditto or pay 10*s.* 6*d.*
C. B..	26	Ditto	12 ,, ,,	12 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto ditto or pay 3*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*
C. B..	27	Breach of the articles of war	13 ,, ,,	13 ,, ,,	Court-martial	4 ditto ditto with hard lab.
E. B. .	25	Ditto	13 ,, ,,	13 ,, ,,	Ditto	3 ditto.
J. B. .	49	Disobeying an order of bastardy	17 ,, ,,	17 ,, ,,	Summarily	2 ditto ditto or pay 2*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*
J. M..	21	Breach of contract	25 ,, ,,	25 ,, ,,	Ditto	30 days with hard labour.
T. D..	69	Nonpayment of servant's wages	30 ,, ,,	30 ,, ,,	Ditto	3 cal. months' imprison. or pay 3*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*
J. L. .	23	Assault	5 Sept. ,,	5 Sept. ,,	Ditto	2 ditto ditto or pay 1*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*
J. D. .	19	Vagrancy	5 ,, ,,	5 ,, ,,	Ditto	1 ditto ditto with hard labour.
J. S. .	20	Ditto	5 ,, ,,	5 ,, ,,	Ditto	1 ditto.
B. E. .	21	Assault	8 ,, ,,	8 ,, ,,	Ditto	1 ditto ditto or pay 3*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*
M. E..	30	Malicious trespass	9 ,, ,,	9 ,, ,,	Ditto	1 ditto ditto with hard lab.

The following table shows the number of prisoners in confinement in each of the last two years :—

TOTAL Number of Prisoners in Confinement in the course of the Years ending at Michaelmas 1849 and 1850.

	1849			1850		
	Males.	Fem.	Total.	Males.	Fem.	Total.
CRIMINAL PRISONERS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year :—						
Prisoners for Trial	2	2	4	5	..	5
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions .	7	..	7	6	2	8
Summarily Convicted	19	4	23	10	2	12
For Re-examination	1	..	1	..	..	..
Received under Commitments and who have not been in the Custody of other Governors :—						
Prisoners for Trial	31	13	44	36	12	48
Rendered in Court for Trial . .	7	4	11	11	3	14
Summarily Convicted	151	28	179	118	35	153
Committed for Examination, but afterwards Discharged not being fully Committed	1	..	1	1	1	2
Total of Criminals .	219	51	270	187	55	242
DEBTORS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year	7	..	7	6	..	6
Admitted in the course of the Year .	25	2	27	12	1	13
Total of Debtors and Criminals.	251	53	304	205	56	261
Lunatic Prisoners in the Year . .	..	..	..	1	..	1
Greatest Number at any one time :—						
Criminal Prisoners	50	6	56	34	6	40
Debtors	6	..	6	9	..	9

Cleanliness.

The only bath in the prison is in the cookhouse. In this all prisoners are bathed on admission, but not afterwards. The prison generally presented an uncleanly appearance; in some parts, indeed, a degree of filthiness existed, as dangerous to health as it was offensive to decency. The cleanliness of cells and passages, generally so striking in prisons, seems here to be left to the discretion of the prisoners, who, having no supervision over them, either clean or neglect their cells as they feel inclined.

Clothing and Bedding.

Only one kind of clothing is kept for untried and convicted prisoners. Nominally all the latter are required to wear the prison dress, but evidence was afforded that the rule is not enforced equally, as one individual under sentence of 3 months' imprisonment was dressed in his own clothes, and I found by

inquiry that it was by the sanction of the governor, by whose permission also he was exempted from any kind of employment. The bedding was very good and sufficient, except that no sheets are allowed to prisoners of either sex—a practice militating much against cleanliness, but defended on the ground that the lower orders in Wales are unaccustomed to use them.

Notwithstanding the repeated objections that have been made to the dietary of this prison, and the remonstrances of the Secretary of State thereupon, no alteration whatever has been made. Diet.

The surgeon attends at the prison twice a week, or oftener if sent for. He is not required to examine the prisoners on admission, neither is he called upon to see those who are under close confinement for prison offences, although he sometimes sees such persons, should he happen to call. Even if he should regularly see them on the occasion of his visits, it must often happen, from the rarity of his attendances, that a prisoner will be in confinement for the whole time for which he can be legally confined by the governor, without being once visited by the surgeon. It was remarked in the last Report that the surgeon kept no record of the medicines prescribed for the sick, as required by an express Act of Parliament. Notwithstanding this intimation, I regret to observe that the surgeon still neglects that necessary duty, and that even the names of the diseases under which the prisoners are suffering are not always correctly entered in his journal, which makes it quite impossible to arrive at a knowledge of the nature or extent of the diseases prevailing in the prison. The inadequate remuneration given to medical officers of many prisons is often urged as an apology for the careless performance of their duties; this ought however to be considered rather as a reason for declining the appointment, than as a justification for neglecting its duties. The absence of exact records of cases of sickness is the more to be regretted in the present instance, from the circumstance of scurvy having prevailed to some extent in the prison, attributable, in my opinion, as stated in the last Report, to the objectionable nature of the dietary. Health.

The chaplain attends at the prison and performs Divine Service generally twice in the week, but there are no rules prescribing this, or any other amount of duty. When the chaplain does not attend, the governor reads to the prisoners the whole of the Morning Service except the Absolution, signing his name in the chaplain's book, which is filled with such entries, sometimes 5 days in succession, a practice which I cannot but consider calculated to lessen the influence of the religious services upon the minds of the prisoners very materially. Moral and Religious Instruction.

No schoolmaster is employed, as required by law, and the only instruction which is stated to be communicated to the prisoners is embraced in a private interview which each has with the chaplain once in a month; so that individuals committed for shorter periods

may, and often must, leave the prison without even this amount of advantage.

Punishments

As a necessary consequence of the want of supervision over the prisoners, punishments are very few.

Labour.

No labour is done except that of the treadmill, by which barley is ground for prison use. In this manner 10 men were employed at the time of my inspection, 2 were engaged in cooking without the supervision of any officer, 6 were preparing fuel, 2 cleaning the prison, and 1 sick in the infirmary. Of the female prisoners 7 were washing and 2 mending clothes. The prisoners employed in cooking were under sentence of hard labour, involving a departure from the judgment of the Court. The common excuse was alleged, that the prisoners under less severe sentences are not long enough in prison to become expert cooks, and, as they have no assistance from any officer, it is necessary that they should possess that qualification. This would, in my opinion, form a better ground for the appointment of a regular cook, than for conferring indulgences upon those who are generally the least deserving in the prison.

Expenditure

The expenditure in the last year amounted to 917*l.*, of which the following are the principal items in round numbers:—

	£.
Salaries	329
Diet	193
Clothing and bedding	46
Fuel, light, and soap	101
Sundries	134

The receipts have been as under in the same period:—

Profits of labour	75
Maintenance of prisoners under contract	140
Subsistence of military prisoners	4
Fines	2
Maintenance of convicted prisoners	103
Removal of convicts	50
Revenue prisoners	6

The accounts of prison expenditure and other records are kept by the governor. All provisions for the use of the prison are purchased by contract.

Debtors.

The accommodation for debtors, which is the same as that described in the last Report, is very ample for the number in confinement, which is said to be not much increased by committals from the County Court.

General Remarks.

It can scarcely be said that any discipline whatever is pursued in this prison, the governor having no assistance but that which he derives from a turnkey paid by himself, and who is of course incapable of overlooking the whole of the prison. The law requiring that the rules of the prison should be certified by the Secretary of State has not been complied with, notwithstanding the observations made on this omission in the 14th Report. The rules and regulations suspended in the day-rooms of the prison, having

received no sanction from the legitimate authority, cannot therefore be legally enforced. These rules also are defective in not prescribing the duties of the officers, as well as those of the prisoners.

The staff comprises the governor, chaplain, surgeon, matron, miller, one turnkey, and the clerk to the Visiting Justices.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

MONMOUTH.—COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Prison Buildings.

THIS prison is placed on an elevated site, closely contiguous to the town, and until the completion of the house of correction at Usk, seven years ago, was the principal prison of the county. Its construction is such as to forbid all separation of the prisoners: the convicted in the intervals of labour, and the untried during the whole day, occupying yards and day-rooms in unrestricted association, and often without the supervision of officers. As far as these disadvantages of construction will admit, the prison is exceedingly well managed, but the glaring defects that have been alluded to not only prevent the successful adoption of any reformatory discipline with reference to such of the prisoners as remain therein during the periods of their sentences, but are productive of the worst effects upon the minds of those who are destined to be removed after trial, to be placed under the Separate system at the house of correction at Usk.

Some very material improvements have been made in the construction of the prison since the last Report, among which may be mentioned as the most important, an entire remodelling and extension of the chapel, the construction of large day-rooms and work-rooms for both the untried and convicted male prisoners, and the formation of a large number of labour-cells. The chapel originally consisted of little more than an enlargement of the central passage. By throwing into it a room formerly used as a debtors' day-room, together with the debtors' visiting-lobby and other neighbouring rooms on that and the floor above, a large and convenient chapel has been constructed, having an appearance far more in harmony with its religious destination than the former ill-contrived structure. A good organ, the property of the governor, and played by one of his family, adds much to the solemnity of the service.

In compensation for the accommodation withdrawn from the debtors, a good day-room, with a sleeping room over it, and other conveniences, have been erected at one end of the debtors' airing-yard, affording a sufficient extent of accommodation for the general class of debtors, but requiring, in my opinion, to be further extended for the reception of those committed by the County

Courts, whose apartments might be most conveniently placed on the part of the convicted males' airing-yard adjoining to the present debtors' building, the remainder being given to them as an airing-yard. By this arrangement the two classes of debtors would be entirely separated, and I learn from the governor that the yard is not wanted for the convicted men.

The day-rooms and work-rooms, before alluded to, measure 14 feet by 16 feet, and are well lighted from above. At the time of my last inspection they were sufficiently completed to be occasionally occupied. The day-rooms previously existing were so close and confined, that the new rooms must be regarded as a great acquisition, but it is, in my opinion, absolutely requisite that an officer should continually overlook the prisoners in each, which is not now done. The labour-cells before alluded to are 34 in number, and are situated near the front boundary wall; each is provided with a seat, and the prisoners are secured in them by iron gates. The turnkey having charge of the tread-wheel occasionally patrols around the cells, to prevent communication taking place between the prisoners.

Some further alterations of no very difficult accomplishment would very much improve the convicted females' prison, which is at present exceedingly deficient in accommodation. Instead of the present very confined washhouse, a commodious washhouse and laundry might be made by taking in a part of the present airing-yard, and thus enlarging the existing laundry. The removal of a wall dividing the two airing-yards would more than compensate for the loss of the portion so proposed to be appropriated, by extending the available airing-yard up to the wall of the chapel. The room now used as a washhouse would answer very well for a mangling-room.

Great inconvenience is experienced from the want of reception-cells, a deficiency which might easily be supplied by extending the boundary wall around the piece of ground corresponding, on one side of the entrance lodge, with that which contains the labour-cells on the other. By this arrangement, and the removal of the cookhouse to a room formerly used as the convicted males' day-room, the reception-cells might be made in its place, together with a bath, surgeon's examining-room, and other conveniences.

There are altogether 36 cells for prisoners of all denominations, except debtors, each measuring 9 feet by 6 feet, with a height of 9 feet; they are furnished with iron bedsteads, but it is obvious that more than one prisoner must frequently sleep in one cell, as the number of prisoners generally exceeds that of the cells. A small addition will probably be made to the above accommodation by the conversion of some of the day-rooms into cells, as the new work-rooms will render them unnecessary in the former capacity. The drainage is now very good.

Prisoners on the day of Inspection.

The following list exhibits particulars relative to the prisoners on the day of inspection:—

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of Monmouth on the 18th of September, 1850.

Convicted Prisoners.

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
J. D.	37	Housebreaking	5 Aug. 1848	5 Aug. 1848	Assizes	14 years' transportation.
G. L.	20	Malicious stabbing	9 May 1849	2 ,, 1849	Ditto	15 calendar months' hard labour.
W. L.	46	Stealing watches	6 July ,,	2 ,, ,,	Ditto	18 ,, ,,
T. E. T.	39	Forgery	23 ,, ,,	2 ,, ,,	Ditto	7 years' transportation.
J. G.	19	Burglary	18 Aug. ,,	27 Mar. 1850	Ditto	2 years' hard labour.
T. R.	19					,, ,,
J. D.	30	Rape on a child	12 Nov. ,,	,,	Ditto	,, ,,
J. D.	24	Sheepstealing	21 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	,, ,,
D. M. C.	25	Forgery	5 Jan. 1850	,,	Ditto	12 calendar months' hard labour.
D. M.	32	Stealing tobacco from a boat on a canal	12 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
R. L.	31					9 ,, ,,
J. F.	39	Burglary	23 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	2 years' hard labour.
G. F.	30					,, ,,
J. P.	33					,, ,,
*J. H.	33					,, ,,
J. W.	34	Sheepstealing	23 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	18 calendar months' hard labour.
W. M.	19	Highway robbery	8 Feb. ,,	,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
W. P.	21					2 years' hard labour.
J. J.	27	Assault on constable	,, ,,	,,	Ditto	,, ,,
M. C.	22					,, ,,
C. H.	22	Burglary	21 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	,, ,,
G. L.	23					,, ,,
W. C.	27	Uttering base coin	24 ,, ,,	18 ,, ,,	Sessions	6 calendar months' hard labour.
I. H.	47	Stealing iron	24 ,, ,,	18 ,, ,,	Ditto	,, ,,
*J. S.	19	,, flannel	23 Mar. ,,	27 ,, ,,	Assizes	,, ,,

* Females.

Convicted Prisoners, &c.—*continued.*

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily	Sentence.
*H. D.	18	Stealing watch, &c.	23 Mar. 1850	27 Mar. 1850	Assizes	6 calendar months' hard labour.
*M. J.	28	,, ,, spirits, &c.	27 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	6 ,, ,,
W. P.	23	,, furniture	1 Apr. ,,	1 July ,,	Sessions	18 ,, ,,
J. C.	51					12 ,, ,,
T. J.	26	Receiving stolen property	6 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
W. G.	37	Detaining a post letter	11 ,, ,,	3 Aug. ,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
R. W.	22	Housebreaking	11 ,, ,,	1 July ,,	Assizes	9 ,, ,,
T. T.	30	Stealing wearing apparel	15 ,, ,,		Sessions	6 ,, ,,
W. J.	30			,,	Ditto	4 ,, ,,
*M. A. S.	37	,, cloth	16 ,, ,,			4 ,, ,,
T. D.	18	,, coal	6 May ,,	,,	Ditto	4 ,, ,,
*E. E.	20	,, money from person	10 ,, ,,	3 Aug. ,,	Assizes	15 years' transportation.
R. P.	18	,, ,,	20 ,, ,,	1 July ,,	Sessions	4 calendar months' hard labour and twice whipped.
*E. L.	20	,, ,,	23 ,, ,,		Ditto	6 calendar months' hard labour.
T. D.	33	,, coal	1 July ,,	,,	Ditto	6 ,, ,,
T. S.	17	,, lead	1 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	3 ,, ,, and twice whipped.
E. H.	21	,, wearing apparel	6 ,, ,,	3 Aug. ,,	Assizes	6 ,, ,,
H. D.	16	,, money	8 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
*A. M. A.	19	,, ,,	9 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
H. G.	20	Manslaughter	9 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	3 ,, ,,
D. H.	19	Housebreaking	10 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	9 ,, ,,
G. R.	20	Stealing wearing apparel	12 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
J. G.	23	Highway robbery	15 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	3 ,, ,,

* Females.

Convicted Prisoners, &c.—*continued.*

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
J. W.	26	Stealing potatoes	16 July 1850	3 Aug. 1850	Assizes	3 calendar months' hard labour
T. B.	30	Malicious stabbing	20 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	6 ,, ,,
J. J.	26	Stealing coal	23 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	3 ,, ,,
J. V.	25	Highway robbery	,,	,,	Ditto	4 ,, ,,
W. W.	20	,, ,,	,,	,,	Ditto	4 ,, ,,
C. H.	40	Malicious stabbing	25 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	6 ,, imprisonment.
J. D.	22	Housebreaking	,,	,,	Ditto	6 ,, hard labour.
T. T.	20					6 ,, ,,
H. U.	26	Malicious stabbing	,,	,,	Ditto	6 ,, ,,
J. M.	30	Assaulting constable	26 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	9 ,, ,,
W. P.	20	,, ,,	,,	,,	Ditto	6 ,, ,,
W. S.	25	Housebreaking	29 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	6
W. R.	20					6 ,, ,,
W. M.	19					6
P. C.	18	Stealing wearing apparel	2 Aug. ,,	,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
*A. Y.	17	,, money	,,	,,	Ditto	4 ,, ,,
*S. J.	22	,, ,,	,,	,,	Ditto	8 ,, ,,
W. W.	17	,, wearing apparel	,,	,,	Ditto	6 ,, ,,
J. F.	49	,, money, &c.	,,	,,	Ditto	6 ,, ,,
J. M.	30	Assaulting constable	3 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	6 ,, ,,
W. H.	17	Stealing money	,,	,,	Ditto	9 ,, ,,
*E. E.	45	,, boots	,,	,,	Ditto	2 ,, ,,
R. L.	35	,, fowls, &c.	,,	,,	Ditto	6 ,, ,,
T. E.	27	Using profane language in the public streets	2 Sept. ,,	,,	Summarily	1 ,, imprisonment, or pay 1*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* for fine and costs.

* Females.

Prisoners for Trial.

Name.	Age.	Specific Offence charged.	Date of Commitment.	Whether for Trial at Assizes or Sessions.
F. A. E. J.	19 23	Highway robbery	22 Aug. 1850	Assizes.
G. W.	20	Stealing wearing apparel . .	14 Sept. ,,	Sessions.

Debtors.

Name.	Age.	Date of Commitment.	In what Court.	Amount of Debt.	Term of Imprisonment.
				£. s. d.	
R. E. .	81	9 Dec. 1842	Exchequer . .	73 19 0	Unlimited.
W.N.D.	24	17 Nov. 1848	Queen's Bench .	93 17 0	Ditto.
I. P. S.	53	20 July 1850	Chancery . .	50 0 0	Ditto.
W. J.	43	20 Aug. ,,	Queen's Bench .	32 9 0	Ditto.
R. W. T. J. .	65 33	26 ,, ,,	,, ,,	147 4 0	Ditto.
D. R. .	28	10 Sept. ,,	County Court .	19 5 2	Twenty days.

Cleanliness. The prison was exceedingly clean throughout, and the prisoners presented a cleanly appearance. The convicted male prisoners have facilities afforded them for washing daily in the labour-cells, but the untried men wash in the old day-room, in the presence of a turnkey, 4 at a time. Each prisoner has a warm bath once a month, and is required to wash his feet once a week.

Clothing and Bedding. There is a single prison dress, which is worn by all the convicted prisoners, and by such of the untried as desire it, to save their own clothes, or when their own are ragged; they have leathern shoes, stockings, and flannel waistcoats. The bedding is very clean, and sufficient sheets are allowed to all, with a wise regard to economy, as well as cleanliness.

Health. The surgeon attends at the prison daily, seeing all newly arrived prisoners, those under punishment, and any sick who may be brought under his notice. No epidemic occurred in the prison last year.

Moral and Religious Instruction. The chaplain visits the prison daily at 9 o'clock, and performs Divine Service. He does not converse with the prisoners individually, in regular rotation; as I found some who had been in the prison many months without being privately addressed by him. He sometimes takes a class of boys once or twice in a week, but as his daily visits only extend to one hour, it is impossible that he can give much instruction out of chapel. It is needless to remark upon the insufficiency of the moral and religious instruction implied in this description of the chaplain's duties; and as no schoolmaster has been yet engaged, it is my duty to call attention to the necessity of the appointment of such an officer,

not only to fulfil the requirements of the law, but also to comply with the obligations of an enlightened policy.

A few months ago, a complaint made by the Roman Catholic clergyman to the Secretary of State, against the conduct of the chaplain, with reference to two prisoners under charge of murder, was sent to the Visiting Justices for investigation. The nature of the complaint, and the reply made thereto, will be best shown by the following documents, which I extract from the minutes :—

To the Right Honourable Sir George Grey, Secretary of State, Home Office, Whitehall.

Sir, Monmouth, June 3rd, 1850.

Being the Roman Catholic priest of Monmouth, whose duty it is to attend and instruct the Roman Catholic prisoners detained in the county gaol of the town, I feel myself obliged to trouble you with a request to interfere and prevent certain annoyances which I meet with, from the chaplain of the gaol, in the discharge of my duty. Since the middle of April last there have been only two prisoners in the untried ward; these two are, unfortunately, Roman Catholics, natives of Ireland, on the charge of murder.

The chaplain of the gaol has twice at least intruded his services upon them, though they rejected them, and he knew I was attending them. Moreover, on the 24th of May, though there were no other prisoners in the ward, nor have been since, he has insisted on his right to introduce a number of offensive tracts and books into the ward, and placed them amongst my books, on the small table appropriated to my use, though there was another table, and other places in the ward, where they might have been put. I removed them to the other table several times, but always found them replaced on my return. I then requested the turnkey who let me out to give the books and tracts to Mr. Gosling, the chaplain, and to say to him from me that I did not wish the prisoners to be distracted from the instruction I was giving them on the commandments of God, and the other duties of the religion in which they had been baptized. On my next visit I found even a greater number than before of tracts and books placed together with my books, so as to cover the table. On Saturday last I made a complaint of this to the visiting magistrates, and represented to them the injurious effects of placing such tracts before the irritable minds of Irish Catholics, and particularly of men like these, and the insulting manner in which it was done, when in reality he had nothing to do with these prisoners, and that by No. 6 of the new regulations for prisons the magistrates were the only persons to interfere and to direct what books should be distributed for the use of prisoners who do not belong to the Established Church. I also took occasion to complain of Mr. Gosling, the chaplain, abusing the opportunities which his situation among the prisoners gave him, of sneering at the Catholic prisoners for their religion, of the principles of which he is evidently either grossly ignorant or he has said to them what he knew to be false. I submit that this is not fit conduct for the chaplain of a prison in these days. The magistrates acknowledged I had made out a good case, and they would take it into

consideration, but feared to hurt the feelings of Mr. Gosling by ordering the books and tracts to be taken away.

To-day I visited the ward, and found all tracts and books in the ward still, excepting one or two perhaps, but on the other table, so that I suppose the annoying objects are still to remain. I have taken out a leaf from one of the books, Fab. III., which I enclose for your inspection.

Ex uno disce omnes; and I beg you will give orders that all such books shall be removed from the ward, till they be wanted for other prisoners, and that Mr. Gosling shall not in future interfere with Roman Catholic prisoners.

I remain, with great respect, Sir,
Your most obedient and humble servant,
THOMAS BURGESS, M.A.

P.S. I beg here to give most honourable testimony to the conduct of the present worthy and excellent governor of the gaol, and the officers under him, from whom I have invariably received every attention and assistance, and of whom I have never heard any complaint from the prisoners under my care.

County Gaol, Monmouth, June 22nd, 1850.

SIR,

WE have the honour to reply to your letter of the 7th inst., and to return the letter of the Rev. Thomas Burgess, Roman Catholic priest, which was enclosed, and to report thereon as follows:—

There were at the time referred to, and are at present, only two prisoners for trial in the untried ward in this gaol, and these are both Roman Catholics.

From the time of their committal, the Rev. Edward I. Gosling, the chaplain of the gaol, tendered to them his religious services, and until they were declined by the prisoners.

He also supplied the ward with books, according to his usual practice, and he continued to do so after his religious services were declined by the prisoners. This he did under a misapprehension that it was his duty to direct the distribution of books to all prisoners, not having observed the 6th rule of the prison regulations, which directs that the Visiting Justices shall control the distribution of books for the use of prisoners who do not belong to the Established Church.

The following extracts from the chaplain's journal contain a correct report of his conduct with respect to these two prisoners:—

"*April* 13*th*. Visited separately M. M. and P. S., two men committed for murder. NOTE.—The two men committed for murder declined visits from me; this they did in the presence of the officer who accompanied me this morning to their cells.

"*April* 19*th*. Saw the men committed for murder.

"*April* 23*rd*. Called to see the two men committed for murder. I offered to read to them a portion of their own Testament (the Vulgate translated); to this they consented; I accordingly read John, chap. iii. My reason for making the offer was, that one of them cannot read.

"*April* 26*th*. Mr. Burgess, the Romish priest, has objected to my reading to the men committed for murder even the translation of the New Testament left by him for their use, so that any further tender of

my services as regards them would, for the present at any rate, be not only fruitless, but unseemly.

"*May* 24*th*. Supplied the ward for untried men with Bibles, Prayer-books, and tracts.

"*May* 27*th*. Went into the ward in which are the men for trial.

"*June* 1*st*. S., one of the men for trial, being ill, I went to see him.

"*June* 3*rd*. Removed a tract from the ward appropriated to the men for trial, entitled 'The Dying Christian,' as at the close of it something is said of the 'Inquisition at Rome,' which has given offence to the Romish priest.

"*June* 7*th*. Went into the ward appropriated to the men for trial."

The tract above referred to, in the entry of June 3rd, was a number of "The Friendly Visitor," a well-known publication; it contained no other allusion to the Roman Catholic church, and the chaplain says that he had not observed this particular passage in it.

The printed and engraved leaf appended to the Rev. Thomas Burgess's letter, transmitted to us, is taken out of "The Universal Spelling-book, by Daniel Fenning: London: Published by the Wholesale Dealers:" no date. This book contains many other fables, of a common kind, with pictures, and makes no other allusion in any part to matters of religion or controversy. It is a book of 144 pages, and the chaplain states that he was in like manner unaware of the existence of the offensive fable.

With respect to the complaint that the chaplain has been in the habit of sneering at the Roman Catholic prisoners for their religion, no such conduct has taken place in the presence of the governor or the turnkeys; and the definition of a sneer, in the course of religious argument, is so difficult, that we do not believe that it would be the wish of the Secretary of State that we should pursue this inquiry further, by an examination of the two prisoners, the subjects of the present complaint, or of others, if they could be found, who have formerly been prisoners in the county gaol.

We have, under the 6th rule of the prison regulations, ordered the books supplied by the chaplain to the untried ward to be removed until some other prisoner shall be committed for trial, not of the Roman Catholic persuasion, there being a Bible furnished to each cell, and the Roman Catholic priest having provided the prisoners with a New Testament in their day-room.

We are, Sir,
Your obedient servants,

(Signed) THOMAS OAKLEY,
GEORGE CAVE,
S. R. BOSANQUET,
Visiting Justices.

H. Waddington, Esq.,
Under Secretary of State, Whitehall.

It cannot be doubted that the chaplain, in persisting, contrary to the wishes of the prisoners, in pressing his ministrations upon them, when they were attended (as allowed by law) by a priest

of their own persuasion, exercised a power which did not belong to his office.

There is a good supply of books, but, being left in the day-rooms for prisoners to help themselves, the destruction committed upon them is very great. Books should always be given to prisoners by the chaplain, according to his judgment of their fitness for the particular individuals to whom they are lent. Their issue and return should be recorded in a book, the volumes being always examined before their re-issue, by which alone a check can be kept upon their wanton or careless destruction.

Punishments. The punishments are few in number, and generally extend no further than the stoppage of a single meal, or the substitution, for the usual dinner, of bread, rice, or potatoes. The prisoners are obedient and well conducted, and submissive in manner—qualities which, when they prevail generally throughout a prison, may be confidently ascribed to good management on the part of the governor.

Labour. The treadmill has ten compartments, and is worked by some of the prisoners sentenced to labour, the remainder being employed in picking oakum or breaking stones. When shoemakers, tailors, or other skilled workmen are in the prison, they are usually employed in making shoes, clothes, and doing repairs of different kinds, in the service of the prison. The labour of the prisoners is not productive of any pecuniary return.

Expenditure. The expenditure in the course of the last year amounted to 1744*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, the following being, in round numbers, some of the principal items :—

	£.
Salaries	661
Prison diet	635
Clothing and bedding	45
Fuel, light, and soap	151
Stationery and books	19
Removal of prisoners to and from trial	16
Repairs	62
Sundries	103

The receipts in the same period were 533*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, of which 524*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* was received from the Treasury for prisoners' maintenance and the removal of convicts.

The books relative to expenditure, as well as all other prison records, are kept by the governor, assisted by one of the turnkeys, no clerk being especially appointed. The provisions are generally purchased by contract, and appeared to be of good quality; the last prices were as follows :—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Bread, per cwt.	0	11	4
Meat, without bone, per cwt.	1	19	4
Potatoes, per sack of 280 lbs.	0	10	0
Coals, per ton	0	10	3
Cocoa, per cwt.	3	10	0
Oatmeal ,,	0	16	0
Treacle ,,	1	8	0

The accommodation for debtors is sufficiently extensive, but is objectionable in not being subdivided for the two classes, so that the County Court debtors cannot be kept separately by night or by day, and can therefore obtain tobacco and other prohibited articles from those of their companions to whom their use is allowed. I have already shown how this deficiency may be remedied by a separate building and airing-yard. The present sleeping accommodation consists of a single room, with ten iron bedsteads well supplied with bedding, but it appears to me far from a desirable mode of lodging this class of prisoners. Debtors.

The repairs and alterations of the prison have been effected with a strict regard to economy, having been in great measure done by prisoners, the labour-sheds merely costing the county the price of the iron gates. An escape was lately effected by a prisoner, in a manner as daring as it was ingenious, during the time that the rest of the prisoners were at dinner, the man having availed himself of a ladder employed in the building of one of the work-rooms. The fugitive was, however, very shortly recaptured. The following extract from the governor's journal refers to a far more daring attempt at escape, showing the risk of allowing hardened and desperate criminals to associate together:— General Observations.

"This morning a little before 6 o'clock George Allpass, one of the turnkeys, on going to give the convicts under sentence of transportation their clothes, was seized by two of the transports (M. and M.), violently assaulted, his keys taken from him, and locked in a cell. Having possession of the keys, they unlocked two other transports (A. and H.), let themselves out of the prison, and proceeded to the lodge, armed with the leg of an iron bedstead, (which M. had broken out of his cell with,) a large padlock, also broken from a cell-door, and a large stone, pulled out from the drain. Meeting Bradshaw and Hathaway, two other turnkeys, coming through the lodge door, M. struck Bradshaw with the piece of iron, and left him senseless on the ground; the others, seizing Hathaway, got possession of the keys, locked the inner door of the lodge, and escaped, throwing the keys into the field. On hearing Allpass call out from the cell-window, I went to the lodge, and, finding the door locked, I ran back and released Allpass. By this time Hathaway, who was in the lodge, and the least hurt, had recovered the keys, and let me through. I immediately gave an alarm, and sent a large number of persons, armed, on foot and on horseback, in pursuit of the prisoners, who succeeded in recovering them in about four hours. Put them in irons in separate cells."

A "prisoners' relief fund" has been in operation several years, for assisting to reclaim such prisoners as shall have completed the term of their imprisonment, and who at the time of their discharge shall be recommended to the Visiting Justices by the chaplain and governor. From the reports of the chaplain from time to time, it appears that this fund has been productive of much good.

It appears by an extract from 'Neild on Prisons,' published in 1812, page 398, that—

"Mr. James Gabriel, a most worthy character in this town, (who died 26th March, 1764, at the age of 75,) had been very kind to the prisoners in his lifetime; and at his death left them £100, which is vested in the Turnpike Security, and from which each prisoner, every quarter-day, receives a sixpenny loaf.

"A memorial of this legacy is fixed up in St. Mary's Church."

The following is an extract from the will of James Gabriel, of the town of Monmouth, gardener, dated 16th Nov. 1753:—

"I give to the poor of the parish of Monmouth one hundred pounds, to be placed out at interest by direction of my executors hereinafter named, and the interest arising from the said one hundred to be applied for ever in buying of bread, and to be disposed among the poor of the parish of Monmouth, and such poor prisoners as shall be in the county gaol of Monmouthshire for the time being, at four times in the year, that is to say, Christmas-day, Easter-day, Whitsunday, and Michaelmas-day, or on the day after any of the said days which shall suit most convenient for the distributing of the said bread."

The will from which the above is taken was proved at London, on the 21st of May, 1754, before the judge, by the oath of the Rev. John Gabriel, clerk, the son and executor, to whom administration was granted, he having first been duly sworn by commission duly to administer.

This bequest appears to have been diverted from its proper object, as I can find no entry in the records of the gaol, for many years past, of the benefaction having been distributed among the prisoners. On inquiry, however, I find it to have been given as lately as the year 1820; and I also hear that the interest is annually received by the churchwardens of the parish of Monmouth. The governor, by direction of the Visiting Justices, communicated with the clerk of the trustees of the Monmouth turnpike trust, and also with the churchwardens of the parish, requesting that a moiety might be given to the poor prisoners, as directed by the will of the testator; but no reply was received to these applications.

The following table exhibits the total number of prisoners who have been received at the county gaol on commitments by the magistrates of the boroughs of Newport and Monmouth in the last six years. It shows a very considerable increase of commitments from these boroughs; in the former instance, at least, traceable to the increase of commerce and of population:—

A List of all PRISONERS received from Borough Jurisdictions for Trial, between the 1st of January, 1845, and the 18th September, 1850.

Name.	Age.	Date of Reception.	Offence.	Sentence.	Borough.	Assizes or Sessions.
J. H.	17	2 Feb. 1845	Stealing a silver thimble	9 calendar months' hard labour	Monmouth	Sessions.
E. T.	28	29 Mar. ,,	Concealing birth of child	3 ,, ,,	Ditto	Assizes.
J. W.	24	29 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Acquitted	Newport.	Ditto.
J. E.	15	17 May ,,	Stealing a sheepskin	,,	Monmouth	Sessions.
E. N.	23	21 June ,,	,, bed and table linen	3 calendar months' hard labour	Ditto	Ditto.
G. J.	23	31 July ,,	Maliciously cutting and wounding	15 years' transportation	Newport.	Assizes.
M. A. N.	23	26 Sept. ,,	Stealing money	Acquitted	Monmouth	Sessions.
G. T.	28	22 Nov. ,,	,, ,,	12 calendar months' hard labour	Ditto	Ditto.
J. E.	16	21 Feb. 1846	,, a silver spoon	12 ,, and once whipped	Ditto	Assizes.
T. W.	18	21 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Acquitted	Ditto	Ditto.
W. H.	47	6 June ,,	Incorrigible rogue	12 calendar months' imprisonment	Ditto	Sessions.
J. F.	21	25 Sept. ,,	Assault with intent to steal	3 ,, hard labour	Ditto	Ditto.
A. P.	21	25 ,, ,,	Stealing from the person	Acquitted	Ditto	Ditto.
W. C.	18	29 Oct. ,,	,, a pair of stockings	,,	Newport.	Ditto.
W. C.	25	11 Nov. ,,	,, a horse	6 calendar months' hard labour	Monmouth	Ditto.
J. W.	19	29 Jan. 1847	,, a shirt	1 fortnight ,,	Ditto	Assizes.
F. M. C.	19	2 Feb. ,,	,, money	Acquitted	Ditto	Ditto.
D. T.	30	3 ,, ,,	,, potatoes	,,	Ditto	Ditto.
T. D.	27	3 ,, ,,	,, ,,	,,	Ditto	Ditto.
T. W.	19	4 ,, ,,	,, a shovel	,,	Ditto	Ditto.
E. H.	17	17 May ,,	,, money	Bill ignored	Ditto	,,
S. C.	18	4 Dec. ,,	,, a pair of shoes	12 calendar months' hard labour	Ditto	,,
W. H. L.	25	19 Jan. 1848	,, a leg of mutton	2 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
A. J.	25	1 Feb. ,,	,, wearing apparel	4 ,, ,,	Newport	Ditto.
A. C.	37	3 Mar. ,,	,, a duplicate	2 ,, ,,	Monmouth	Ditto.
W. J.	35	21 ,, ,,	Incorrigible rogue	6 ,, ,,	Ditto	Sessions.
W. N.	53	20 May ,,	Stealing money	2 ,, imprisonment	Ditto	Ditto.
P. V.	38	4 July ,,	,, ,,	Acquitted	Ditto	Assizes.
G. P.	28	7 Sept. ,,	,, silver spoons	,,	Ditto	Sessions.

A List of Prisoners for Trial, &c.—*continued.*

Name.	Age.	Date of Reception.	Offence.	Sentence.	Borough.	Assizes or Sessions.
J. E.	18	31 Oct. 1848	Stealing money	14 days' hard labour and once whipped	Monmouth	Sessions.
J. S.	33	23 Nov. ,,	,, ,,	7 years' transportation	Ditto	Ditto.
J. H.	30	23 ,, ,,	,, ,,	7 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
J. P.	38	27 ,, ,,	,, a bed	2 calendar months' hard labour	Ditto	Ditto.
E. M.	29	11 Dec. ,,	,, a silver spoon	3 weeks' imprisonment	Ditto	Ditto.
W. W.	33	12 ,, ,,	,, a spade	14 days' hard labour	Ditto	Ditto.
W. J.	38	8 Mar. 1849	Incorrigible rogue	6 calendar months' hard labour	Ditto	Ditto.
J. G.	19	18 Aug. ,,	Burglary	2 years'	Ditto	Assizes.
T. R.	19	18 ,, ,,	,,	2 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
T. W.	22	1 Sept. ,,	,,	15 years' transportation	Ditto	Ditto.
C. J.	16	4 ,, ,,	Stealing a pair of boots	1 calendar month and twice whipped	Ditto	Sessions.
J. J.	20	6 Nov. ,,	Sheep stealing	7 years' transportation	Newport	Assizes.
J. M.	18	6 ,, ,,	,, ,,	10 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
G. M.	29	6 ,, ,,	,, ,,	13 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
A. J.	23	8 ,, ,,	Highway robbery	Acquitted	Ditto	Ditto.
C. W.	27	8 ,, ,,	,, ,,	,,	Ditto	Ditto.
M. L.	28	8 ,, ,,	,, ,,	,,	Ditto	Ditto.
W. C.	31	19 ,, ,,	Burglary	2 calendar months' hard labour	Ditto	Ditto.
P. C.	21	19 ,, ,,	,,	10 years' transportation	Ditto	Ditto.
E. D.	19	19 ,, ,,	,,	10 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
M. A. C.	26	22 Dec. ,,	Stealing money	2 calendar months' hard labour	Monmouth	Sessions.
D. M.	25	9 Jan. 1850	Forgery	12 ,, ,,	Newport	Assizes.
H. N.	32	9 ,, ,,	,,	Transported for life	Monmouth	Ditto.
M. S.	30	5 Feb. ,,	Cutting and wounding	Acquitted	Newport	Ditto.
J. J.	27	8 ,, ,,	Assaulting constable	2 years' hard labour	Ditto	Ditto.
M. C.	22	8 ,, ,,	,, ,,	2 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
W. P.	19	8 ,, ,,	Highway robbery	2 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
W. M.	21	8 ,, ,,	,, ,,	12 calendar months' hard labour	Ditto	Ditto.

A List of Prisoners for Trial, &c.—*continued.*

Name.	Age.	Date of Reception.	Offence.	Sentence.	Borough.	Assizes or Sessions.
D. T.	37	14 Feb. 1850	Stealing money	Acquitted	Monmouth	Sessions.
M. D.	20	26 Mar. ,,	,, ,,	,,	Newport	Assizes.
E. W.	21	26 ,, ,,	,, ,,	,,	Ditto	Ditto.
W. S.	24	26 ,, ,,	,, rope	,,	Ditto	Ditto.
M. J.	28	27 ,, ,,	,, spirits	6 calendar months' hard labour	Ditto	Ditto.
C. C.	20	27 ,, ,,	,, iron	1 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
E. E.	20	10 May ,,	,, money, &c., from the person	15 years' transportation	Ditto	Ditto.
C. P.	18	10 ,, ,,	,, ,,	15 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
M. J. S.	19	4 June ,,	,, ,,	10 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
A. M.	19	9 July ,,	,, ,,	12 calendar months' hard labour	Ditto	Ditto.
J. T.	24	12 ,, ,,	,, wearing apparel	7 years' transportation	Ditto	Ditto.
J. W.	43	12 ,, ,,	,, ,,	7 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
H. J.	17	12 ,, ,,	,, ,,	7 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
G. R.	20	12 ,, ,,	,, ,,	12 calendar months' hard labour	Ditto	Ditto.
J. W.	25	16 ,, ,,	,, potatoes	3 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
E. B.	21	16 ,, ,,	,, money from the person	15 years' transportation	Ditto	Ditto.
G. W.	17	23 ,, ,,	,, iron	6 weeks' hard labour	Ditto	Ditto.
T. B.	29	23 ,, ,,	Malicious stabbing	6 calendar months' hard labour	Ditto	Ditto.
J. J.	26	23 ,, ,,	Stealing coal	3 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
J. V.	25	23 ,, ,,	Highway robbery	4 ,, ,,	Monmouth	Ditto.
W. W.	20	23 ,, ,,	,, ,,	4 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
J. W.	48	30 ,, ,,	Stealing rope	Acquitted	Newport	Ditto.
C. H.	40	30 ,, ,,	Malicious stabbing	6 calendar months' imprisonment	Ditto	Ditto.
J. F.	49	2 Aug. ,,	Stealing money	6 ,, hard labour	Ditto	Ditto.
A. Y.	17	2 ,, ,,	,, money from the person	4 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
S. J.	22	2 ,, ,,	,, ,,	8 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
J. M.	30	3 ,, ,,	Assaulting constable	6 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
E. E.	45	3 ,, ,,	Stealing a pair of boots	2 ,, ,,	Ditto	Ditto.
J. C.	37	3 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Acquitted	Ditto	Ditto.

The following table shows the whole number of prisoners in confinement in each of the last two years :—

TOTAL Number of Prisoners in Confinement in the course of the Years ending at Michaelmas 1849 and 1850.

	1849			1850		
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Male.	Fem.	Total.
CRIMINAL PRISONERS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year :—						
Prisoners for Trial	5	..	5	7	..	7
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions .	35	6	41	44	6	50
Summarily Convicted	1	..	1	..	1	1
Received under Commitments, and who have not been in the Custody of other Governors :—						
Prisoners for Trial	35	7	42	60	18	78
Transferred to other Governors for Trial	12	1	13	5	1	6
Rendered in Court for Trial . .	8	5	13	11	1	12
Summarily Convicted	22	5	27	39	2	41
Received from other Governors, and enumerated in their Returns :—						
Prisoners for Trial	38	4	42	19	5	24
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions .	35	11	46	20	8	28
Committed for Examination, but afterwards Discharged, not being fully Committed	2	..	2	1	..	1
Total of Criminals .	193	39	232	206	42	248
DEBTORS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year.	8	..	8	9	1	10
Admitted in the course of the Year .	54	3	57	44	..	44
Total of Debtors and Criminals .	255	42	297	259	43	302
Deaths in the course of the Year .	1	..	1	3	..	3
Prisoners pardoned on Medical grounds	2	..	2	1	..	1
Greatest Number at any one time :—						
Criminal Prisoners	69	13	82	72	21	93
Debtors	15	1	16	13	..	13

The staff of the prison comprises, besides the usual principal officers, four male and one female turnkeys and the lodge-keeper, but no schoolmaster. In justice to the separate system it must be observed that the exception which (in appearance at least) is presented by the house of correction of Usk, to all the other prisons on the separate system in the district, in its not having effected, like the rest, a reduction in the number of commitments, is in some measure due to the want of a corresponding discipline at the

county gaol, in which all the errors of the old associated system are retained, which have been for seven years past abandoned at the house of correction.

" USK.—COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

A full account of the construction of this prison was given in the 10th Report, in which also were pointed out certain defects and requirements, still existing, and which, in consequence of the building being entirely new, had not been foreseen and provided for. These defects, having come under the notice of the Visiting Justices, were represented by them to the Quarter Sessions, and have been remedied in the best manner by alterations, which cannot be better described than in the words of their Report :—

" *Report by Visiting Justices of defects in the county house of correction at Usk, to the Michaelmas Sessions of* 1847.	" *Remedies proposed, and approved by the Court, and which have now been carried into effect.*
" 1. The kitchen too small for the requirements of the prison, subject to great inconvenience for want of sufficient means to carry off the steam. The steam boilers for the preparation of prisoners' diet one-third too small.	" 1. A new kitchen erected on the south side adjoining the store-rooms, fitted up with steam boilers one-third larger than the old ones, with means for carrying off the steam. Boiler to supply these new baths with hot water. Old kitchen to be used for store-room, in lieu of two others required for a passage to new kitchen and monthly bath for male prisoners.
" 2. But one bath for the whole of the prisoners, male and female, and that accessible only through the entrance octagon hall; whereas three baths are required—one monthly for male prisoners in the corridors, situated conveniently thereto; one for males in the reception-cells; another for females within their own department of the prison.	" 2. The store-room, between the magistrates' room and the passage to the new kitchen, fitted up for a monthly bath for male prisoners in the corridors. " The magistrates' water-closet near the octagon converted into a bath for males in the reception-cells; former entrance from the passage between octagon and female department stopped up, and another made from the stairs leading to the basement story. " A bath erected and fitted for female prisoners adjoining to it, with access from the passage between octagon and female department.
"3. But four reception-cells for males, and none for females;	" 3. The two reception-cells in the passage leading to the female

whereas there should be six or more for males and two for females: two of the four used for males are situated in the passage between octagon and female department. No water-closet or water-sink for the use of male reception-cells; no punishment-cell.

department appropriated to female prisoners. The swing iron gate at the end of the said passage brought forward and fixed at the octagon, having also been boarded on the inside, thus secluding on the ground floor all the arrangements of the female from those of the male prisoners; in lieu of these, two reception-rooms erected in continuation of the treadwheel building, and communicating with the passage between octagon and governor's house, and in which the two other reception-cells are situated.

"Three other reception-cells for males in the basement story; one of them, adjoining the warming apparatus, boarded, and appropriated for an itch-cell.

"One dark cell on the same floor fitted and appropriated as a punishment-cell.

"The whole of the cells on the basement, excepting the itch-cell, warmed and ventilated by an Arnott stove in the passage of the same, and an extracting stove in the governor's private office on the ground floor. The itch-cell warmed and ventilated by a flue from the heating apparatus, and an extracting flue carried up to the fireplace in the porter's room. The two new cells by the treadwheel supplied from the Arnott's stove aforesaid, and extracting flues carried up by the smoke-flue from the same.

"The old bath-room, adjoining octagon, converted into a water-closet for magistrates, another for male prisoners in reception-cells, and a water-sink.

"4. Fumigating stove and oven placed in the room where the prisoners' own clothes are stored."

"4. Slope building erected outside prisoners' clothes-room, communicating with octagon by a passage taken from the clothes-room, from which a door leads into the latter; oven and stove fixed in said building."

With reference to the mode of warming and ventilating the new cells situated near the treadmill, I would beg to remark that observation has confirmed my objection made to it in the first instance, that the action of the extracting flue, arising from its passing near the heating-stove, would be insufficient to procure good ventilation.

The inspection of the airing-yards from the inner building is still defective, from the loopholes being too high; there is also a difficulty in overlooking the prisoners engaged in stone-breaking or other work in the labour-sheds. It was intended that the officer having the inspection of the treadmill should also overlook the prisoners breaking stones through some loopholes in the wall, but the officers declare this to be impossible, and that it is never attempted, but that another man is generally employed for the purpose.

The following is a statement of the whole accommodation of the prison:—

Certified cells for male criminals	96
,, for female criminals	21
Reception-cells for males	6
,, for females	2
Itch-cell	1
Dark cell	1
Rooms for 1st class male misdemeanants	3
,, ,, female misdemeanants	3
Hospital for females	1

The following list describes the cases of the prisoners present on the day of inspection:— Prisoners on the day of Inspection.

Prisoners in the House of Correction of Usk on the 17th of September, 1850.

Convicted Prisoners.

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
J. S.	33	Stealing money	23 Nov. 1848	1 Jan. 1849	Sessions	7 years' transportation.
R. H.	31	,, ,,	8 ,, 1849	31 Dec. ,,	Ditto	9 calendar months' hard labour.
J. M.	24	,, cloth	13 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
M. J.	26	Housebreaking	19 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
T. H.	29	Stealing saddles	23 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
T. B.	27	,, five lambs	14 Dec. ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
W. T.	38	,, lead	24 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
W. J.	21	,, a colt	22 Nov. ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
J. M.	22	Uttering base coin	30 Jan. 1850	18 Mar. 1850	Ditto	6 ,, ,,
J. W.	25	Housebreaking	5 Feb. ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	6 ,, ,,
W. P.	23	Stealing wearing apparel	27 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
P. C.	17	,, wine, &c.	22 Jan. ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	7 years' transportation.
H. J.	19	,, a watch, &c.	13 April ,,	1 July ,,	Ditto	3 calendar months' hard labour.
W. M.	36	,, a turkey	20 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	3 ,, ,,
J. O.	40	,, beer	8 May ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	3 ,, ,,
W. J.	23	,, porter	3 June ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	3 ,, ,,
B. V.	30	,, iron	29 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	3 ,, ,,
J. P.	21	,, shoes	27 May ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	3 ,, ,,
W. D	17	,, a coat, &c.	5 June ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	4 ,, ,,
E J.	29	,, coal	8 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	4 ,, ,,
J. G.	42	,, cloth	15 April ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	6 ,, ,,
C. P.	29	,, sovereigns	8 May ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	6 ,, ,,
J. W.	37	,, shoes, &c.	27 ,, ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	6 ,, ,,
E. L.	21	,, coal	3 July ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	6 ,, ,,

Convicted Prisoners—*continued.*

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
*T. E. V.	30	Assault	Surrendered in Court.	3 Aug. 1850	Assizes	6 calendar months' imprisonment.
T. B.	37	Uttering base coin	30 April 1850	1 July ,,	Sessions	12 calendar months' hard labour.
†E. J.	17	Stealing handkerchiefs	2 July ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	3 ,, ,,
†E. K.	28	,, cloth	16 April ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	4 ,, ,,
†C. K.	24	,, a watch	27 May ,,	,, ,,	Ditto	6 ,, ,,
W. P.	27	Using threats.	12 Feb. ,,	..	Summarily	12 ,, or find sureties.
J. T.	25	Rogue and vagabond	24 June ,,	..	Ditto	3 ,, hard labour.
J. W.	31	Bastardy	26 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	3 ,, or pay 3*l.* 2*s.*
W. S.	23	Assault	6 July ,,	..	Ditto	3 ,, or pay 5*l.*
J. S.	27	,,	,, ,,	..	Ditto	3 ,, ,,
G. J.	28	Rogue and vagabond	3 Aug. ,,	..	Ditto	3 ,, hard labour.
J. H.	23	Assault	10 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	6 weeks or pay 4*l.*
J. W.	49	Using threats.	12 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	6 calendar months, or find sureties.
G. B.	22	Bastardy	16 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	3 months, or pay 2*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*
J. B.	26	Leaving his employment	21 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	1 calendar month's hard labour.
T. P.	49	,, ,,	,, ,,	..	Ditto	1 ,, ,,
E. S.	27	Idle and disorderly	,, ,,	..	Ditto	1 ,, ,,
W. T.	55	,, ,,	24 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	1 month's hard labour.
J. C.	41	Assault	,, ,,	..	Ditto	28 days, or pay 2*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*
D. C.	11	Stealing money	26 ,, ,,	..	Under the Juvenile Act.	1 calendar month's hard labour.
W. P.	27	Idle and disorderly	29 ,, ,,	..	Summarily	1 ,, ,,
J. B.	60	,, ,,	4 Sept. ,,	..	Ditto	1 ,, ,,
A. M.	12	Assault	5 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	14 days, or pay 11*s.* 6*d.*

* A Misdemeanant of the First Division. † Females.

Convicted Prisoners—*continued.*

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
J. A.	48	Idle and disorderly	10 Sept. 1850	..	Summarily	14 days' hard labour.
R. W.	38	Rogue and vagabond	,, ,,	..	Ditto	1 calendar month's hard labour.
S. C.	21	Stealing underwood	13 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	21 days' hard labour, or pay 20*s.*
W. T.	27	Using threats and intimidations	,, ,,	..	Ditto	2 calendar months' hard labour.
D. J.	30	Idle and disorderly	,, ,,	..	Ditto	1 ,, ,,
J. P.	26	Stealing cabbage	16 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	21 days' hard labour.
T. C.	50	Assault	,, ,,	..	Ditto	14 ,, or pay 20*s.*
W. M.	19	Idle and disorderly	,, ,,	..	Ditto	1 month's hard labour.
			FEMALES.			
J. B.	13	Stealing coal	11 July ,,	..	Under the Juvenile Act.	3 calendar months' hard labour.
M. P.	17	Idle and disorderly	19 Aug. ,,	..	Summarily	1 ,, ,,
J. G.	19	Riot	,, ,,	..	Ditto	2 ,, or find sureties.
J. P.	20	,,	,, ,,	..	Ditto	2 ,, ,,
A. L.	23	Idle and disorderly	29 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	1 calendar month's hard labour.
H. G.	21	,, ,,	,, ,,	..	Ditto	1 ,, ,,
M. L.	25	Disorderly	,, ,,	..	Ditto	6 weeks or pay 18*s.*
E. J.	30	Idle and disorderly	10 Sept. ,,	..	Ditto	10 days' hard labour.
C. M. C.	18	Reputed thief	12 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	1 month's ,,
M. A. R.	20	Assault	16 ,, ,,	..	Ditto	14 days, or pay 16*s.* 6*d.*
H. I.	30	Selling beer without a licence	,, ,,	..	Ditto	1 month, or pay 5*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*
E. J.	21	,, ,, ,,	,, ,,	..	Ditto	1 ,, 2*l.* 19*s.*
M. P.	30	Assault	,, ,,	..	Ditto	14 days, or pay 7*s.* 6*d*

PRISONERS in the House of Correction of Usk on Sept. 17, 1850.

Prisoners for Trial.

Name.	Age.	Specific Offence charged.	Date of Commitment.	Whether for Trial at Assizes or Sessions.
J. J.	22	Stealing shirt and stockings	13 Aug. 1850	Sessions.
J. H.	22	Embezzling money	14 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. B.	25	Highway robbery	17 ,, ,,	Ditto.
W. D.	21	Stealing shoes	19 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. P.	47	,, fowls	20 ,, ,,	Ditto.
W. B.	73	,, malt	23 ,, ,,	Ditto.
G. M.	24	Obtaining goods by false pretences.	27 ,, ,,	Ditto.
				Ditto.
J. D.	17	Stealing rope	27 ,, ,,	Ditto.
G. E.	24	,, a coat	27 ,, ,,	Ditto.
P. P.	26	Killing a sheep	28 ,, ,,	Ditto.
W. P.	19	Ditto.	28 ,, ,,	Ditto.
W. L.	23	Stealing from the person	28 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. E.	35	,, a watch	29 ,, ,,	Ditto.
W. C.	38	Obtaining goods by false pretences.	30 ,, ,,	Ditto.
W. E.	21	Stealing clothes	3 Sept. ,,	Ditto.
T. W.	22	Stealing a watch, &c.	5 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. B.	21	,, stockings	9 ,, ,,	Ditto.
E. B.	17	Ditto.	9 ,, ,,	Ditto.
W. E.	59	Stealing geese	16 ,, ,,	Ditto.
J. E.	28	Ditto.	16 ,, ,,	Ditto.
		FEMALES.		
E. M.	21	Stealing a watch	9 Aug. ,,	Ditto.
L. J.	43	Ditto	29 ,, ,,	Ditto.
S. A. H.	27	Ditto	29 ,, ,,	Ditto.
M. D.	30	Stealing coal	6 Sept. ,,	Ditto.
M. C.	40	Passing base coin	13 ,, ,,	Ditto.

Cleanliness.

The prisoners are frequently admitted from the several county lock-up houses in a very filthy condition, and it was stated that, although the greatest pains are taken to wash them on admission, the vermin continue to infest them long afterwards. It is difficult to perceive any cause for this, unless it be ascribed to their being required to wear their own clothes before trial. The means of personal cleanliness are defective, no water being laid on to the cells, which is the more necessary in prisons on the Separate system, as no other part is set aside in them for the purpose of personal ablution. Each prisoner has a bath once a month.

Clothing and Bedding.

All prisoners sleep in hammocks, and the bedding allowed is very good and sufficient, including a pair of sheets to each prisoner; a single prisoner complained that he was only allowed one, but I found upon inquiry that he had torn the other to pieces. The convicted prisoners are all clothed in a prison dress, but it is not allowed to any of the untried, unless their own is quite unfit to be worn. This rule seems to require reconsideration.

Diet.

The diet recommended in December, 1849, by the Secretary

of State, has been adopted in this prison, and is regarded as a great improvement upon that previously in use, from its having extended the periods for which the lowest formula is prescribed.

Health. The surgeon visits the prison at least three times a week, and generally with much greater frequency; he is sent for to examine prisoners on reception, and also sees those under punishment for prison offences. Once a month he makes a minute inspection of the prison, visiting every prisoner in his cell, and examining all the other parts of the prison. In the autumn of 1848 many cases of small-pox occurred, and in the last year a single case of cholera, which was fatal in a few hours. There appears to be no doubt that this prisoner was affected with the disease at the time of his admission. The following passage, referring to this prisoner, is extracted from the journal of the Visiting Justices:—

"1849, June 4th.—The Visiting Justices deem it proper to make the following entry respecting the case of G. E., committed for 14 days for an offence at the Chepstow union workhouse, who was taken ill the same night, and died on the 27th. The coroner attended on the morning of the 28th and sat with the jury in a room in the governor's house, and agreed to a verdict of Asiatic cholera, *without either the coroner or the jury having entered the prison, or viewed the body.*"

There was scarcely any sickness, and none of a serious character, at the time of my visit. A solitary case of insanity has occurred in the prison since it was opened seven years ago, but the surgeon is decidedly of opinion that this man was insane on his admission. In going round the prison with the surgeon I saw and examined a man who had behaved in a very eccentric and violent manner, but I came to the conviction which the surgeon had previously arrived at, that the individual was feigning for the purpose of procuring his liberation.

It is my duty in this place to allude to the instances, which are by no means unfrequent, of prisoners being brought from the lock-up houses of Chepstow and Abergavenny suffering from illness induced by the dampness and unhealthiness of those places of detention, and also to the disgraceful state of drunkenness in which the prisoners are sometimes brought by the officers having the custody of them. The following are a few of those examples:—On the 22nd of September, 1847, A. G., aged 40, was brought from Abergavenny so drunk that she fell out of the cart. On the 19th of November, 1847, S. M., aged 22, was admitted in a state of severe illness from a cold caught in the police station; she was ill during the whole of her stay in prison, and was carried on a bed to receive sentence. December 11, 1847, H. D., aged 18, was also admitted, suffering severely from the effects of damp in the police station. April 5, 1848, W. D., was brought into the prison suffering sickness, the consequence of having been allowed to get drunk on the road. In the course of

one year 42 prisoners were admitted suffering from catarrh, contracted in the lock-up houses.

The very discreditable state of the lock-up houses of Chepstow and Abergavenny will be found more minutely described below, under their respective heads.

Moral and Religious Instruction.

The chaplain attends daily. On Sunday he reads two full services and preaches two sermons; on week-days he reads a selection from the Liturgy of the Church of England and a chapter from the New Testament. He also visits prisoners in their cells, for the purpose of exhorting and admonishing them. He has the privilege of obtaining books by recommending them to the Visiting Justices. A schoolmaster was appointed about two years ago, but his duties are not restricted to teaching, as he also assists in the discipline of the prison. His hours for teaching are from 10 to 4, during which time he goes from cell to cell, instructing those only who can neither read nor write. The prisoners upon whom he is to bestow his attention are pointed out to him by the chaplain, and rarely include any who are able to read. It seldom happens that a prisoner succeeds in learning to read during his stay, except in the case of unusually long sentences.

In his Report to Quarter Sessions at Michaelmas last, the chaplain makes the following very just remarks on the inconsistency of the management of prisoners awaiting their trial:—

> "The practice of keeping all the prisoners together in the same small room, in waiting for their trial at quarter sessions, tends to produce a bad effect upon their minds, and to counteract any previous good that might have been done them. Good resolutions, which have been months in forming, have, to my knowledge, been totally effaced by one day's evil communication in this way with older and hardened offenders."

Punishments

The punishments for the last year have not been very frequent, but the majority have been of a severe character, 46 out of 67 having consisted in confinement in the dark cell for periods of varying duration. The remaining 21 have been punished by stoppage of diet.

Labour.

The treadmill is the principal instrument of labour: it produces no useful result, although it might without difficulty be made to raise water for the prison. Nearly all the convicted prisoners are sentenced to hard labour, and of these, at the time of my inspection, many were employed in picking oakum, some in pumping water for the prison, one in mending hammocks, and one in repairing shoes. The prisoners are never taught any trades; a few were formerly taught mat-making, but this has been discontinued, as there is no demand for the products of their labour.

Expenditure.

The annual expenditure amounted, by the last account, to 1827*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, the following being some of the principal items in round numbers:—

	£.
Salaries and pensions	883
Prison diet	468
Clothing and bedding	16
Fuel, light, and soap	180
Removal of prisoners for trial	271
Repairs	26
Sundries	147

The receipts have been 474*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, of which 62*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* has been gained by prisoners' labour, and 400*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* has consisted of repayments by the Treasury for prisoners' maintenance and the removal of transports.

The books containing the accounts of expenditure, as well as the other records of the prison, are kept by the governor and his clerks. All provisions are purchased by contract, the contracts being made quarterly. The present price of meat is, per cwt., 1*l.* 19*s.*; bread 13*s.*; oatmeal 14*s.* 6*d.*

Debtors.

No debtors are received at this prison.

General Observations.

This prison presents the only exception in the southern and western district to the fact of a reduction in the number of commitments having attended the introduction of the Separate system of discipline. It is needless to point out how much of the ill success of this system has been due to the unfitness of the person to whom the direction of the affairs of the prison, ever since its erection, has been intrusted, as this point has been repeatedly conceded by the resolutions passed by the Visiting Justices; and as the governor will, by the last resolution of the court of Quarter Sessions, be superseded before the publication of this Report, I do not feel called upon to recount the errors of his administration, which have confirmed the opinion expressed of him in my former Report. It must be acknowledged, however, that the increase of commitments to this prison is partly due to other circumstances, and that much of it is rather apparent than real. The prison is of a very large size when compared either with the county gaol, or with the house of correction which formerly existed at Usk, and consequently a large number of the prisoners, who would have been committed to Monmouth had the old prison of Usk remained, are now as a matter of convenience sent to this more commodious prison. Thus has it arisen that, while the commitments in Monmouthshire have been increasing in proportion to the increase of population, nearly the whole of that increase has been thrown upon the house of correction at Usk, which, from its size, was more capable of receiving the augmentation, than the confined and ill-constructed prison of Monmouth. It should be also observed that the full advantage which has attended the institution of the Separate system at Shrewsbury, Hereford, Leicester, Northampton, and Bath, in which the annual average reduction of commitments has amounted to from 9 to 30 per cent., could not have been expected to arise if there had been in those counties other prisons

in which a diametrically opposite system was pursued—a condition which is presented by the prison of Monmouth as compared with that of Usk.

In conformity with the observations under the head of cleanliness, I would suggest that the untried prisoners should be clothed in the prison dress, except when exempted at their own request, and then only when their own apparel is in good condition.

I would add another suggestion, which is not inferior in importance to any that could be mentioned, namely, that light of some kind should be introduced into the cells, in order to avoid the very objectionable practice of shutting the prisoners up without employment for so large a part of the 24 hours as is now done, especially in winter. If this were accomplished, a regular hour might be fixed for retiring to rest, and much school instruction, or work, if it could be procured for them, might previously be given to the prisoners in their cells, instead of inculcating indolent habits, as at present, by allowing from 12 to 16 hours of rest in bed. Perhaps the most economical mode of bringing this about would be to manufacture gas on the premises; but of this the magistrates would be best able to judge.

The staff of the prison consists of the governor, matron, chaplain, surgeon, seven male and two female turnkeys, watchman, and engineer. The duty of schoolmaster is done by one of the turnkeys, an arrangement by no means to be commended in a prison requiring the constant and undivided attention of a schoolmaster. The very liberal stipend of the chaplain proves that the magistrates are not wanting in regard to the spiritual instruction of the prisoners, and seems to offer a guarantee that their general instruction will also be put upon a footing of greater efficiency.

The following table shows the number of prisoners in confinement in the course of the last two years:—

TOTAL Number of Prisoners in Confinement in the course of the Years ending at Michaelmas 1849 and 1850.

	1849			1850		
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Male.	Fem.	Total.
CRIMINAL PRISONERS.						
In Custody at the commencement of the Year:—						
Prisoners for Trial	30	12	42	18	9	27
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions .	13	..	13	14	1	15
Summarily Convicted	36	6	42	34	10	44
Received under Commitments, and who have not been in the Custody of other Governors:—						
Prisoners for Trial	162	56	218	211	73	284
Transferred to other Governors for Trial	39	4	43	14	6	20
Rendered in Court for Trial . .	29	6	35	17	3	20
Summarily Convicted	375	118	493	327	108	435
Received from other Governors, and enumerated in their Returns:—						
Prisoners for Trial	12	1	13	6	1	7
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions .	..	..	..	1	..	1
Committed for Examination, but afterwards Discharged, not being fully Committed	3	2	5	..	..	..
Total of Criminals .	699	205	904	642	211	853
Deaths in the course of the Year .	1	..	1	..	..	..
Prisoners pardoned on Medical grounds	..	..	..	..	1	1
Greatest Number at any one time:—						
Criminal Prisoners	104	31	135	98	32	130

NEWPORT.—LOCK-UP HOUSE AND POLICE STATION.

This place of detention has been recently erected, and is in very good repair in every respect. Three officers, one of whom is married, reside on the premises. It has a good communication with the courts, so that prisoners can be conveyed to and from the latter without passing any public throughfare.

The accommodation for male prisoners consists of one large cell on the ground-floor, for the reception of night-charges, and, on the floor above, a day-room and 4 sleeping cells, one of which is, however, used as a store-room. There is a large bed in each cell; the windows are not glazed, but there are shutters to keep out the cold; each cell has a watercloset, with a good supply of water, under command of the officer without. The doors of the cells are pierced with inspection-holes. The females are placed in a separate building; they have one day-room and two sleeping

cells. The room for receiving charges, and the other necessary parts of a police-station, are placed on the same side with them.

The diet allowed to prisoners seems to me greatly in excess of what is needful for the preservation of their health, the daily rations being—

2 lbs. of bread,
½ lb. of cheese,
2 quarts of coffee.

Few of the prisoners, of course, enjoy this good fare for more than a single day, but it may be continued longer in cases remanded for further examination. With a superfluous regard to the taste of the prisoners under the latter circumstances, however, their food after the first few days is varied, by the substitution of tea for the coffee, and of ¼ lb. of butter for the cheese.

ABERGAVENNY.—LOCK-UP HOUSE.

In the Tenth Report upon the prisons of this district a minute account was given of the state of decay, dilapidation, and filth in which this building was found, and recommendations were made for the erection of a place of greater strength and more extended accommodation, in consequence of the number of persons occasionally confined in it. Nothing having been done to remedy the evils there complained of, I brought the matter under the notice of the Secretary of State, by the following letter, a copy of which was forwarded by him to the chairman of Quarter-sessions:—

To H. Waddington, Esq.

Sir, Westbourne-street, Dec. 6th, 1848.

I beg leave to bring under the notice of Secretary Sir George Grey the state of the lock-up house at Abergavenny, in which (I regret to say) no attempts at improvement have been made since the publication of my observations thereupon in the Tenth Report of the Inspectors of Prisons, which I enclose, and to which I beg leave to refer.

In that Report, page 86, I have described the state of the building, to which the same observations are still equally applicable, with the additional fact, that dilapidation has still further advanced, so as to render it almost uninhabitable. Only one of the cells is now provided even with a bench. There is no bedding allowed, and even the damp straw I found in the cell had been supplied by the charity of the chief constable from his own stable. Since the date of that Report four prisoners have escaped by breaking through the wall. Twice within the month of September last the building was nearly burnt and the prisoners suffocated, by the latter having lighted the straw for the purpose of warming themselves. Had a proper building been erected when the necessity for it was pointed out, these circumstances would have been prevented, for the residence on the spot of an officer would have prevented the escapes, and in a well-arranged building the means of obtaining fire would not have been within the reach of the persons con-

fined. As matters exist at present, lucifer-matches and even bladders of spirituous liquors may be passed under the door, or even put through a window into a cell. An instance was related to me at my last inspection, in October last, of a bladder of spirits having been passed under the door on a recent occasion, by which a prisoner was sent dead-drunk to the house of correction at Usk—a statement which I afterwards found confirmed by the books of Usk prison. Another fact which I learned at Usk is deserving of notice here, as applying to this lock-up house more than to any other in the county:—In the course of last year 42 cases of catarrh and 2 of very severe inflammation were received at Usk, nearly all of which were traceable to colds caught in this lock-up house.

The building belongs to the corporation of Abergavenny, but is chiefly used for the detention of county prisoners, for which purpose a place of confinement in that locality is very necessary, on account of the near neighbourhood of the iron-works.

I beg leave to recommend that the attention of the county magistrates be directed to the necessity of taking immediate steps for erecting at Abergavenny a commodious station-house, with a room for the magistrates, and accommodation for an officer and his family; and from 4 to 6 cells, sufficiently warmed and ventilated; and that the town authorities be prohibited from using the present building any longer as a prison, unless it be put into proper repair, and provided with the appliances of health as well as of security. I am, Sir, &c.

At my recent visit I was concerned to find that the dilapidation of the building was proceeding without interruption; that there was scarcely a part of it which would afford any valid resistance to an attempt at escape from within, more especially as tools of any description could easily be conveyed to prisoners from without.

The filth and dampness of the cells were even more revolting than at my previous visits. Under these circumstances I have felt it my duty to make another special Report to the Secretary of State, feeling it to be highly important that a suitable place of detention should be provided in a district in which, from the increase of population and of trade, commitments must be expected to become more and more frequent.

CHEPSTOW.—LOCK-UP HOUSE.

The lock-up house of this town is quite as little fitted for its purpose as that of Abergavenny, both from insufficiency of extent and want of security. It consists of a single cell, 12 feet by 9 feet, whose only furniture is a wooden bedstead, the iron legs of which might be used as weapons to effect escape. No bedding is allowed for the prisoners, and, although the place is very damp and cold, they are not even furnished with straw. The wall, being only one brick in thickness, has often been broken through by prisoners confined in the cell. The building being situated in the worst

part of the town—a part inhabited almost exclusively by vagrants and other bad characters—attempts at rescue are very common, and, from there being no officer resident on the spot, are frequently successful. Among many instances of this kind which were related to me was one in which, the lock having been picked from the outside in the middle of the day, a man was liberated who was under remand for having committed a robbery near Newport; and another, in which a man confined under a charge of cattle-stealing let himself out in the middle of the day, and has never since been heard of, although a reward was offered for his recapture. These instances suffice to show the insecurity of the building. With reference to the want of accommodation, it needs only to be remarked that, as there is only one cell, the female prisoners, when there are any in custody at the same time as males, are either allowed to depart, or, if the charges against them are serious, are kept at public-houses through the night, under the care of constables, who, not being stipendiary officers, may be supposed not to be very vigilant. As the policemen live in a distant quarter of the town, it cannot be expected that, in addition to their other duties, they should watch the lock-up house, or take any charge of the women at the public-houses.

The unfitness of this building for the purposes to which it is applied, having been reported to the Secretary of State, was brought by him under the notice of the chairman of Quarter Sessions, previously to the Epiphany sessions of 1849, but no alteration or improvement of any kind had been made in it so lately as the autumn of 1850.

I feel it incumbent on me to recommend that a complete lock-up house, with 4 cells properly warmed and ventilated, a room for the meeting of the magistrates, and accommodation for an officer and family, should be built in a more suitable quarter of the town. The number of cells I have mentioned is the smallest that, in my opinion, would be sufficient to meet the increasing requirements of the town and neighbourhood, arising from the increase of trade and the opening of the South Wales railway.

Note.—Since the above was written, the attention of the Quarter Sessions has been again called by the Secretary of State to the condition of this lock-up house and that of Abergavenny, with what result may be inferred from the following resolution, which I extract from the Report of the proceedings of the last Michaelmas sessions:—

"The only letter read was from Secretary of State Sir G. Grey, drawing attention to the defective state of the lock-up houses at Abergavenny and Chepstow.—The chairman read the Report of the Inspector of Prisons, showing the state of the lock-up house at Abergavenny, and Captain King said there was no doubt that Chepstow was very badly off in this respect. It appeared, however, to be the opinion

of the bench that the financial position of the county would not admit of the whole of the lock-up houses of the ten divisions of the county being placed in repair, which would be the necessary consequence if one or two were done.—It was then ordered, "That the letter of Sir G. Grey, calling the attention of the Court to the state of the lock-up houses at Abergavenny and Chepstow having been read, resolved, That, under the circumstances of the heavy debt lying upon the county for the House of Correction and the Lunatic Asylum, the Court does not think fit, at present, to incur the expense of a new lock-up house in those divisions, which would lead to their establishment in ten other divisions of the county."

Thus has it been determined that the abominations acknowledged to exist in two of the lock-up houses of the county are to be perpetuated, lest their abatement should be urged as a ground for inquiry into the condition of other county establishments of a like nature.

CORNWALL

BODMIN.—COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

State of Prison Buildings.

The details of the defective construction and insufficient accommodation of this prison have been fully described in the Fourteenth Report. The only material addition since that period was in progress at the time of my visit on the 12th July last, namely, the construction of a large tank and force-pump at the eastern side of the prison for the supply of spring water, in place of that of the leat already described, by which the prison is now supplied, and which had been subject to be fouled by cattle. This improvement when complete will, it is hoped, remove for the future all ground for complaints of the nature of those made to me by some of the prisoners, of the occasional impurity of the water supplied to them, and which I had an opportunity of ascertaining from my own observation.

In the prison buildings no alterations have been made, nor is it desirable, as I have before remarked, that any expense which can be avoided should be incurred in upholding a prison which is allowed on all hands to be so unfit for its purposes as to stand in need of being replaced by an entirely new building. As long as the construction remains as it is, the prisoners, even of different sexes, will continually seize opportunities of conversation, giving rise to the constant infliction of punishments on those who are discovered, while a still larger number probably escape detection altogether. The utmost energy and the most judicious management on the part of the governor must be insufficient to maintain good discipline under such disadvantages.

Since the publication of the Fourteenth Report a sum of 5000*l.* has been voted by the Court of Quarter Sessions for the erection of a new building for 48 male prisoners in cells capable of being certified for separate confinement. It was intended previously to the erection of this building to have added to the prison enclosure a piece of freehold land lying to the north and east of the present buildings, and it has only been from some difficulties as to the title of the land, and the consequent delay in the completion of the purchase, that the building has not yet been proceeded with. On the west side of the prison, however, there is an acre of ground which might, I am informed, be purchased on reasonable terms, and which would seem to be at least as convenient an addition as the one originally contemplated.

Before quitting this subject I think it right to observe that the roofs of the present building are much out of repair, admitting both wind and rain.

The following list exhibits the number of prisoners present on the day of inspection, with the particulars of their respective cases :—

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of Bodmin on the 12th of July, 1850.

Convicted Prisoners.

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
		MALES CONVICTED OF FELONY.				
1 F. B.	22	Stabbing	16 Oct. 1848	26 Mar. 1849	Assizes	20 calendar months' hard labour.
2 J. B.	23	Ditto	3 Mar. 1849	,,	Ditto	18 ,, ,,
3 J. L.	21	Arson	16 May ,,	25 July ,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
4 J. R.	29	Receiving stolen property, &c.	13 June ,,	,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
5 R. T.	25	Burglary	21 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
6 W. C.	41	Stealing clothing, two charges	2 Aug. ,,	16 Oct. ,,	Sessions	12 calendar months' hard labour, of which 1 month to be in solitary confinement.
7 B. J.	20	,, sheep, two charges	28 Sept. ,,	,,	Ditto	2 weeks' hard labour, and at expiration 12 calendar months' hard labour, 2 weeks of which to be solitary confinement.
8 W. B.	38	,, a sheep	26 Nov. ,,	1 Jan. 1850	Ditto	18 calendar months' hard labour each.
9 J. S.	37					
10 J. D.	17	,, 30*l.* 14*s.* from a dwellinghouse.	28 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	9 calendar months' hard labour.
11 W. W.	34	Receiving stolen property	5 Jan. 1850	23 Mar. ,,	Assizes	9 ,, ,,
12 B. L.	23	Stealing a fowl	8 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	4 ,, ,,
13 R. S. C.	58	,, potatoes, &c.	21 Jan. ,,	,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
14 J. M.	40	,, two watchcases	12 Feb. ,,	,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
15 W. L.	26	,, potatoes	19 ,, ,,	,,	Ditto	6 ,, ,,
16 T. S.	19	,, earthenware	5 Mar. ,,	,,	Ditto	9 ,, ,,
17 J. W.	44	,, 12 lbs. of beef	,,	,,	Ditto	6 ,, ,,
18 D. P.	26	,, wood	13 Mar. ,,	,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
19 J. P.	22	Assault and robbery	,,	,,	Ditto	18 ,, ,,
20 C. C.	29	Stealing a pair of trowsers	20 Mar. ,,	,,	Ditto	4 ,, ,,
21 J. W. H.	17	,, a jacket	23 ,, ,,	9 Apr. ,,	Sessions	6 calendar months' hard labour, 1 fortnight of which to be in solitary confinement.

22	W. C.	33	,,	timber		,,		,,	Ditto	12 ,, ,,
23	J. L.	23	,,	shoes, &c.	25 Mar.	,,	,,		Ditto	12 ,, ,,
24	J. T.	25	,,	clothing	30 ,,	,,	9 Apr.	,,	Sessions	12 calendar months' hard labour, 1 fortnight of which to be in solitary confinement.
25	J. H.	33	,,	barley	6 Apr.	,,	,,		Ditto	4 calendar months' hard labour.
26	J. R.	24	,,	clothing	9 ,,	,,	2 July	,,	Ditto	4 ,, ,,
27	R. P.	40	,,	ducks	16 ,,	,,	,,		Ditto	6 ,, ,,
28	R. R.	23	,,	a shirt	20 ,,	,,	,,		Ditto	3 ,, ,,
29	T. B.	53	,,	beef suet	22 ,,	,,	,,		Ditto	1 ,, ,,
30	T. C.	17	,,	a coat	29 ,,	,,	,,		Ditto	6 calendar months' hard labour, 1 month of which to be in solitary confinement.
31	T. B.	51	,,	a quilt	11 May	,,	,,		Ditto	1 calendar month's hard labour.
32	S. I.	19	,,	a waistcoat	18 ,,	,,	,,		Ditto	3 ,, ,,
33	W. B.	40	,,	ducks	20 ,,	,,	,,		Ditto	6 ,, ,,
34	W. B.	26	,,	a duck	25 ,,	,,	,,		Ditto	2 ,, ,,
35	A. R.	49	,,	hay	27 ,,	,,	,,		Ditto	1 ,, ,,
36	J. S.	36	,,	a duck	28 ,,	,,	,,		Ditto	3 ,, ,,
37	F. T.	37	,,	oats, &c.	31 ,,	,,	,,		Ditto	6 ,, ,,
38	R. K.	32	,,	clothing		,,	,,		Ditto	6 ,, ,,
39	J. T.	22	Housebreaking		14 June	,,	,,		Ditto	6 ,, ,,
40	J. W.	21	Stealing a waistcoat		19 ,,	,,	,,		Ditto	2 ,, ,,
41	H. H.	27	,,	turves, and assault	29 ,,	,,	,,		Ditto	1 calendar month's hard labour, and at expiration 2 calendar months' hard labour.
42	S. H.	25	,,	chicken		,,	,,		Ditto	5 calendar months' hard labour.
43	H. E.	28	,,	apples and wood	Surrendered in Court.		,,		Ditto	3 ,, ,,
44	G. H.	19	,,	wheat	Ditto		,,		Ditto	3 ,, ,,
45	S. L.	51	,,	hams, &c.	Ditto		,,		Ditto	6 ,, ,,
46	J. H.	18	,,	money from the person.	15 June, 1850		,,		Ditto	10 years' transportation.
47	J. M.	26	Stealing ducks			,,	,,		Ditto	,, ,,
48	J. B. (Juveniles.)	15	,,	bacon, &c.	29 Jan.	,,	23 Mar.	,,	Assizes	12 calendar months' hard labour.
49	J. L. (Juveniles.)	15	,,	a pair of shoes	19 Mar.	,,	,,		Ditto	4 ,, ,,
50	J. L. (Juveniles.)	16	,,	rope	28 May	,,	2 July	,,	Sessions	2 calendar months' hard labour each.
51	W. K. (Juveniles.)	16								

Convicted Prisoners, &c.—*continued.*

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
			FEMALES CONVICTED OF FELONY.			
1 A. R.	38	Stealing money from the person	20 Nov. 1849	1 Jan. 1850	Sessions	9 calendar months' hard labour.
2 A. J.	17	Ditto	6 Jan. 1850	23 Mar. „	Assizes	6 „ „
3 A. G.	37	Stealing a pair of boots	16 „ „	„	Ditto	4 „ „
4 M. J. F.	16	„ an umbrella	21 „ „	„	Ditto	4 „ „
5 E. D.	24	„ a looking-glass	27 Feb. „	„	Ditto	18 „ „
6 H. C.	48	Receiving stolen property	Surrendered in Court	„	Ditto	18 „ „
7 A. C.	22					12 „ „
8 N. T.	50	Stealing candles	Ditto	„	Ditto	4 „ „
9 M. J.	39	„ milk	27 June, 1850	2 July „	Sessions	2 „ „
10 M. C.	29	„ beef, &c.	1 July „	„	Ditto	3 „ „
			PRISONERS CONVICTED UNDER THE JUVENILE OFFENDERS ACT.			
1 C. E.	12	Stealing a pair of snuffers	1 July, 1850	„	Summarily	3 calendar months' hard labour.
2 W. S.	13	„ a brass tap	9 „ „	„	Ditto	1 calendar month's hard labour, and once privately whipped.
			MALE PRISONERS CONVICTED OF MISDEMEANOUR.			
1 B. D.	25	Assault with intent to commit a rape	26 Oct. 1848	26 Mar. 1849	Assizes	2 years' hard labour.
2 W. G.	50	Forging an order	11 Dec. 1849	23 „ 1850	Ditto	6 calendar months' imprisonment.
3 T. M.	47	Assault with intent to commit a rape	1 Jan. 1850	„	Ditto	2 years' hard labour.
4 R. H.	20	Ditto	16 „ „	„	Ditto	6 calendar months' hard labour.
5 J. W.	53	Breach of the peace	5 Feb. „	„	Summarily	12 „ imprisonment, or find sureties.
6 J. N.	24	Assault	12 Feb. 1850	23 Mar. 1850	Assizes	12 calendar months' hard labour.
7 W. B.	61	Assault with intent to commit a rape	Surrendered in Court	„	Ditto	9 „ imprisonment.

8 J. M.	25	Uttering counterfeit coin	28 Mar. 1850	9 April „	Sessions	6 „	hard labour each.
9 E. W.	39						
10 G T.	27						
11 J. R.	56	Fraudulently removing his goods	16 April „	..	Summarily	6	months' hard labour, or pay 30*l.* 10*s.*
12 H. P.	62	Ditto	„	..	Ditto	6 „ „ „	21*l.* 12*s.*
13 E. S.	24	Disobeying an order in a case of bastardy	10 May „	..	Ditto	3	calendar months' imprisonment, or pay 2*l.* 15*s.*
14 J. W.	50	Smuggling tobacco	20 „ „	..	Ditto	6	calendar months' imprisonment, or pay 100*l.*
15 W. T.	46	Ditto	„	..	Ditto	6	calendar months' imprisonment, or pay 100*l.*
16 T. M.	26	Disobeying an order in a case of bastardy	1 June „	..	Ditto	3	calendar months' imprisonment, or pay 1*l.* 11*s.*
17 J. C.	60	Vagrancy	3 „ „	..	Ditto	3	calendar months' hard labour.
18 W. H. T.	25	Assault	6 „ „	..	Ditto	2 „	imprisonment, or pay 2*l.* 11*s.*
19 J. H.	38	An incorrigible rogue	10 „ „	2 July „	Sessions	2	calendar months' hard labour, and once privately whipped.
20 W. J.	24	Disobeying an order in a case of bastardy	„	..	Summarily	2	calendar months' imprisonment, or pay 2*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*
21 W. S.	37	Nonpayment of assessed taxes	„	..	Ditto	Imprisoned till he pays 9*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*	
22 T. M.	54	Refusing to maintain his family	14 „ „	..	Ditto	1	calendar month's hard labour.
23 R. W.	40	Breach of the peace	18 „ „	..	Ditto	12 „	imprisonment, or find sureties.
24 J. J.	18	Assault	19 „ „	..	Ditto	2	calendar months' imprisonment, or pay 2*l.* 10*s.*
25 W. J.	19	„ on 2 charges	„	..	Ditto	2	calendar months' imprisonment, or pay 2*l.* 10*s.*, and 1 calendar month's hard labour, or pay 2*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*
26 F. D.	19	„ on 3 charges	„	..	Ditto	2	calendar months' imprisonment, or pay 2*l.* 10*s.*; 1 calendar month's hard labour, or pay 2*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*; and 1 calendar month's hard labour, or pay 2*l.* 10*s.*

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Convicted Prisoners, &c.—*continued.*

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
			MALE PRISONERS CONVICTED—*continued.*			
27 —— .	About 60	Vagrancy	21 June, 1850.	. .	Summarily . .	1 calendar month's hard labour.
28 G. F. .	24	Disobedient in a Union . .	22 „ „	. .	Ditto . . .	1 „ „
29 W. M. .	24	Assault	1 July „	. .	Ditto . . .	3 „ „
30 W. T. .	24	Vagrancy	2 „ „	. .	Ditto . . .	21 days' imprisonment, or pay 1*l.*
31 J. S. .	49	Fraudulently removing his goods	21 June „	. .	Ditto . . .	6 months' imprisonment, or pay 45*l.*
32 W. M. .	56	Vagrancy	2 July „	. .	Ditto . . .	21 days' hard labour.
33 T. F. .	18	Ditto	4 „ „	. .	Ditto . . .	14 „ „
34 R. L. .	34	Refusing to maintain his family	6 „ „	. .	Ditto . . .	3 calendar months' hard labour.
35 W. S. D.	15	Furious riding	9 „ „	. .	Ditto . . .	1 „ „ or pay 3*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*
			FEMALE PRISONERS CONVICTED OF MISDEMEANOUR.			
1 E. T. .	21	Breach of the peace . . .	25 April, 1850	. .	Summarily . .	12 calendar months' imprisonment, or find sureties.
2 M. A. T.	25	Ditto	„	. .	Ditto . . .	12 calendar months' imprisonment, or find sureties.
3 E. C. .	16	Vagrancy	16 May „	. .	Ditto . . .	3 calendar months' hard labour.
4 J. U. .	20	Breaking glass	2 July „	. .	Ditto . . .	1 calendar month's hard labour, or pay 12*s.* 6*d.*
5 M. T. .	32	Disorderly in a Union . .	9 „ „	. .	Ditto . . .	14 days' hard labour.

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of Bodmin on the 12th of July, 1850.

Prisoners for Trial.

Name.	Age.	Specific Offence charged.	Date of Commitment.	Whether for Trial at Assizes or Sessions.
		MALES.		
1 G. S.	27	Stealing 12*s.* 6*d.*	11 July, 1849	Assizes.
2 W. G.	21	Arson	7 May, 1850	Ditto.
3 R. H.	62	Rape	30 ,, ,,	Ditto.
4 G. B.	45	Housebreaking	8 June ,,	Ditto.
5 B. H.	26	Stabbing	18 ,, ,,	Ditto.
6 C. G.	11	Burglary	19 ,, ,,	Ditto.
7 J. A.	33	Stealing a jacket	3 July ,,	Ditto.
8 C. P.	22	,, a lamb	3 ,, ,,	Ditto.
9 R. B.	26	Stealing 3 grates and 101 lbs. of lead	5 ,, ,,	Ditto.
10 S. H.	30			
11 J. A.	26			
12 W. L.	35	Stealing wood	8 ,, ,,	Ditto.
		FEMALES.		
1 H. G.	17	Burglary	19 June ,,	Ditto.
2 J. M.	27	Stealing money from the person.	5 July ,,	Ditto.
3 E. V.	20	Stealing a brooch, &c.	8 ,, ,,	Ditto.

DEBTORS in the Cornwall County Gaol on the 12th of July, 1850.

Name.	Age.	Date of Warrant.	Nature of Warrant.	From what Court issued.	Amount of Debt.	Sentence.
				MALES.	£. s. d.	
1 W. L.	59	18 Aug. 1849	Execution	Exchequer	55 14 0	
2 T. W.	47	18 July „	Ditto	Ditto	288 0 0	
3 T. S.	61	6 Oct. „	Ditto	Queen's Bench	44 3 11	
4 T. A.	65	30 April, 1850	Ditto	Exchequer	31 5 7	
5 J. M.	36	22 May „	Ditto	Queen's Bench	36 4 7	
6 C. A. W.	36	24 April „	Ditto	Ditto	58 18 8	
7 S. K.	32	19 „ „	Ditto	Stannaries of Cornwall	79 19 4	
8 E. J. J.	40	6 June „	Ditto	Queen's Bench	144 6 0	
9 W. J. H.	22	24 May „	..	County Court at Plymouth	Debt & costs 24 0 4	40 days' imprisonment from the 21st of June, 1850.
10 J. R.	72	23 Feb. „	Execution	Queen's Bench	125 3 0	
11 C. R.	24	25 June „	Mesne process	Exchequer	28 7 0	
12 R. P.	62	26 „ „	..	County Court at Launceston	Debt & costs 15 11 6	30 days' imprisonment from the 28th of June, 1850.
13 W. D.	29	3 July „	Mesne process	Queen's Bench	168 0 0	
				FEMALE.		
1 A. P.	66	15 Feb. 1850	Attachment	Chancery	Contempt.	

Nothing could exceed the cleanliness of the wards and dormitories of the prisoners, and their persons generally exhibited evidences of due attention to cleanliness. The prisoners wash in a long trough in the day-rooms of their respective wards, each having his distinct comb, towel, and brush, with his number affixed. Each prisoner also has a bath once a month. Prisoners on the day of Inspection. Cleanliness.

The stock of clothing and bedding is fully sufficient, except in the absence of sheets, which are not allowed unless to prisoners in hospital. This appears to me, as I have often stated elsewhere, a regulation not less at variance with economy than with cleanliness; for the more frequent necessity for washing the blankets causes more rapid wear to that most expensive article of bedding. The governor, while he admitted this as a principle, objected that in the present confined drying-ground there would be a difficulty in drying the sheets. It appears to me that that difficulty might be met here, as elsewhere, by the construction of an efficient drying-closet. Clothing and Bedding.

Although convicted prisoners are uniformly dressed in prison clothing, those before trial are obliged to wear their own, unless very ragged: this restriction appears to be impolitic, inasmuch as it throws an additional obstacle in the way of a prisoner obtaining employment after his discharge, by making his clothes unfit for respectable service. Clogs are universally worn, and are preferred by the governor as keeping out the damp better than leather shoes.

The schedule of diet recommended by the Secretary of State in December last has been adopted by the magistrates, and is regarded as an improvement on that previously in use. Diet.

The regulations for the duties and attendances of the surgeon have undergone no change since the last Report. The prison was very healthy at the time of my visit, and no epidemic had prevailed in it since the last Report. The cases of death and pardon on medical grounds, with the only case of insanity occurring in the last year, will be seen in the following schedule:— Health.

DEATH in the year ending Michaelmas, 1850.

Name.	Age.	Offence and Sentence.	Date of Committal.	State of Health on Committal.	Date of Death.	How long in Infirmary before Death.	Disease or other Cause of Death.
M. R.	43	Uttering counterfeit coin—18 calendar months' hard labour.	23 April, 1849	Bad . . .	21 Oct. 1849	6 days . .	Hepatitis Chronica.

LUNATIC in the Year ending Michaelmas, 1850.

Name.	Age.	Offence and Sentence.	Date of Committal.	Whether insane on Committal.	Whether insane at present.	How disposed of.
J. P. .	44	Breach of the peace—3 calendar months' imprisonment, or find sureties to keep the peace.	2 April, 1850	Yes . . .	Yes . . .	Sent to the County Lunatic Asylum, April 15th, 1850.

PARDON on Medical Grounds in the Year ending Michaelmas, 1850.

Name.	Age.	Offence and Sentence.	Date of Committal.	State of Health on Committal.	Disease, and the presumed cause thereof.	Date of Pardon.
J. T. .	25	Stealing wearing apparel—12 calendar months' hard labour, 2 weeks of which to be solitary.	30 March, 1850	Good; but subject to fits.	Epileptic fits, supposed to have been brought on by fright.	22 Aug. 1850

The only baths in the prison are those in the reception cells. It would be very desirable that room should be found for some additional ones, by which the danger of communicating infectious diseases would be removed.

Moral and Religious Instruction.

The duties of the chaplain have been fully detailed in the last Report; but it must be admitted that the present arrangements of the prison, admitting as they do of much communication between the prisoners, present serious obstacles in the way of his successful ministration. A very efficient officer performs the duty of schoolmaster as well as governor's clerk, and instructs all the boys and many of the adult prisoners, it being left to the option of the latter to attend school or not, while the attendance of the former is made compulsory. There is a good supply of books, including many of general information, and the chaplain is unrestricted in the permission to purchase such as he may deem necessary.

Punishments.

No prisoner was under punishment at the time of my last inspection, but a man had been flogged on the previous day to the extent of 36 lashes with a cat, for refusing to go upon the treadwheel, and insulting the governor with abusive language. He was duly sentenced by a Visiting Justice, after evidence of his offence given on oath; but he erroneously protested against the power of a single justice to inflict the punishment. The following is the record of punishments inflicted in the past year:—

NUMBER of Punishments for Offences within the Prison in the course of the Year ending Michaelmas, 1850.

—	Prisoners of 17 Years of Age and upwards.				Prisoners under 17 Years of Age.				Total Adult and Juvenile.		Grand Total of both Sexes.
	Tried.		Untried.		Tried.		Untried.				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Handcuffs and other irons	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Whipping	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Dark cells	56	5	12	..	13	..	9	..	90	5	95
Solitary cells	24	1	2	..	3	..	..	..	29	1	30
Stoppage of diet	95	5	14	2	17	..	2	..	128	7	135
Other punishments	133	2	..	..	9	..	..	..	142	2	144
Total	310	13	29	2	42	..	11	..	392	15	407

Labour.

The only description of labour for male prisoners is that of the treadmill, by which corn is ground for the use of the prison and for that of a lunatic asylum. No money return is made for this labour. No trades are taught, but when a shoemaker or tailor is in confinement he is employed to make shoes or clothes for the prisoners. The women are constantly em-

ployed in making shirts and in washing for the prisoners, as well as for the governor, matron, and assistant matron, whose washing, by permission of the court, is also done by prisoners. When the number of women is insufficient, the men assist in the washing in a separate building. The female prisoners are no longer employed to clean the court in front of the governor's house, a practice complained of in the last Report.

Books and Expenditure.

The books of the governor are kept with great exactness, and present at a glance any information that may be desired as to the expenses. The provisions are all bought by contract, except in the few instances in which no tender has been made. The prices in the last contract, in June, are rather lower than those of the previous year.

	£.	s.	d.
Beef, per cwt.	1	17	0
Oatmeal, per cwt.	0	18	6

The tender for wheat at 6*s.* 4*d.* per bushel was refused as too high, and no tender was received for potatoes, which at the time of my visit were purchased at 8*d.* per gallon of 10 lbs.

Debtors.

Since the number of debtors has been increased by the operation of the County Courts, the accommodation afforded for them has not been found excessive. It consists of 22 beds and one day-room for males, and a single sleeping-room for females. The general proportion borne by the respective classes of debtors to each other is one-third from the County Courts and two-thirds in execution.

General Observations.

The subordinate officers have a very slovenly appearance from the want of a common uniform, and in the division for untried prisoners can scarcely be distinguished from those under their charge. The general efficiency of this class of officers has been improved of late by the appointment of two serjeants of marines in the room of two retiring turnkeys. The Visiting Justices, 11 in number, are appointed at the Michaelmas sessions, and hold office for a year, after which they are generally re-elected, unless they desire to retire from the office. They commonly meet at the prison once a month.

By returns received since the above was written the expenditure and receipts of the prison are shown to have been as follows:—

Total Expenditure in the Year 1850, under the following heads:—

	£.	s.	d.
Prison diet	808	7	2
Prisoners' clothing	205	4	8½
Bedding	37	9	0
Extra allowances to the sick	26	3	6
Fuel	135	5	8
Candles, oil, and gas	77	1	0¾
Soap	22	0	6¼
Cooking	49	8	0
Stationery and printing	36	7	10
Carried forward	£1397	7	5½

	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward	1397	7	5½
Books	0	17	5
Rent, rates, and taxes	17	12	4½
Officers' salaries	1156	8	0
Pensions to retired officers	15	0	0
Removal of prisoners to and from their trials, &c.	80	18	11
Removal of transported convicts	144	17	1
Sundries	143	4	0½
Repairs and alterations	88	5	1½
Total	£3044	10	5

TOTAL RECEIPTS OF THE PRISON IN THE YEAR.

Amount received from the Treasury under the following heads:—

	£.	s.	d.
For maintenance of convicted prisoners	583	11	4½
For removal of transports	144	17	1
For subsistence of revenue prisoners	68	16	3
Amount received for support of prisoners under contract	92	8	0
Amount received for subsistence of military prisoners	0	12	6
Total	£890	5	2½

The total number of prisoners in the last two years is shown in the following table, and it is most satisfactory to observe the great reduction that has taken place in the year 1850:—

	1849.			1850.		
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Male.	Fem.	Total.
CRIMINALS.						
1. In Custody at the commencement of the Year:—						
Prisoners for Trial	10	9	19	20	4	24
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions	54	14	68	42	9	51
Summary Convictions	36	16	52	36	6	42
2. Received under Commitments, and who have not been in the Custody of other Governors:—						
Prisoners for Trial	165	49	214	142	35	177
Rendered in Court for Trial	38	15	53	29	9	38
Summary Convictions	452	109	561	293	97	390
3. Received from the Custody of other Governors, and enumerated in their Returns:—						
Prisoners for Trial	1	..	1	..	..	..
4. Charges, *i. e.* Prisoners Committed to the Prison for Examination, but afterwards Discharged, not being fully Committed	2	..	2	1	..	1
Total	758	212	970	563	160	723
DEBTORS.						
5. In Custody at the commencement of the Year	5	..	5	9	..	9
6. Admitted in the course of the Year	37	..	37	47	7	54
Total of Debtors and Criminals.	800	212	1012	619	167	786

	1849.			1850.		
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Male.	Fem.	Total.
Deaths in the course of the Year	2	..	2	..	1	1
Lunatics in the course of the Year	..	1	1	..	1	1
Pardons on Medical grounds	1	..	1	1	..	1
Greatest Number at any one time :—						
Criminal Prisoners	157	45	202	109	29	138
Debtors	15	..	15	14	2	16
Average Daily Number:—						
Of Criminals	..	..	..	95	22	117
Of Debtors	..	..	..	47	7	54

The staff consists, besides the principal officers, of the clerk (also acting as schoolmaster), eight male warders (of whom one acts as gate-porter, one as instructing shoemaker, and one as miller), a watchman, and the matron with her assistant.

BODMIN.—BOROUGH LOCK-UP HOUSE.

This building remains in the same condition with respect to ventilation as that described in the last Report. It is to be regretted that this single deficiency should not yet have been remedied in a building which is in other respects well suited to its purpose.

SALTASH.—BOROUGH PRISON AND LOCK-UP HOUSE.

Considerable improvement has been made in the cells of this building since the last Report. A passage, 5 feet in width, has also been made between the cells and the street, whereby communication between the prisoners and persons outside has been in a great measure prevented. The chief improvement, however, consists in the provision of a residence for the keeper, which has been obtained by a conversion of the old Town Hall, which occupies the upper floor of the house, into a sitting-room and sleeping-room for the keeper and his family. A bedstead has been placed in one cell, and the other was ordered to be similarly furnished; and accommodation has been provided for female prisoners upon the floor occupied by the keeper's family. There is still, however, the same need as before of an airing-yard for prisoners of either sex.

Prisoners committed for trial, and sentenced at the borough Sessions to imprisonment, have hitherto been sent to the county gaol at Bodmin, a long and expensive journey; to avoid which, those committed for trial within a few weeks of the sessions are generally detained in the lock-up house. It would greatly conduce to the public advantage that an arrangement should be made with the borough of Plymouth for the confinement of

prisoners in the gaol of that borough, from which Saltash is only separated by the river.

No record has hitherto been kept at the prison of the prisoners committed, or the particulars of their cases. This deficiency should be immediately supplied by the adoption of a proper register, open at all times to inspection.

HELSTONE.—TOWN GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

This prison, which is more deserving of the name of a lock-up house, has been fully described in the Fourteenth Report. The only change that has taken place since that Report is the appointment of a policeman in the town to keep the keys, instead of the master of the workhouse, which is so far a defect as that the new keeper now lives at a much longer distance from the prison than the former, making it impossible for the bells in the prisoners' cells to communicate with his house. No prisoners were in confinement at the time of my visit, and the whole number in the course of the year had amounted to seven; but of these one was eleven weeks in confinement, and another five, the rest having been from a month to seven days. As this prison consists of nothing but the bare cells and airing-yards, the latter of which are so insecure that prisoners cannot be trusted in them—as there is no officer of any description appointed to the duties of superintendence except a town policeman, who comes periodically to give the prisoners their food—as there is no chaplain, surgeon, or Visiting Justice, I feel bound to express my opinion that it is quite unjustifiable to sentence persons to imprisonment therein; or, in fact, to use the building for any other purpose than as a temporary lock-up house.

The books kept by the officer having the care of the prison exhibit seven commitments between the 6th of March, 1849, and the 23rd of May, 1850. Nevertheless, it is stated in the annual returns made to me, that there has been no prisoner in confinement during the two years 1849 and 1850.

FALMOUTH.—BOROUGH GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

No addition has been made to the very deficient accommodation of this prison since the last Report, although an alteration was in progress at the time of my recent visit, by which two day-rooms would be built at the extremity of the airing-yard. This building, it is to be feared, will add much to the facility of escape, inasmuch as it is built against the wall, and in such a manner that any ordinary climber may attain the summit. In reply to this objection, it is stated that prisoners will not be trusted there alone; as, however, the keeper, who is the only

male officer employed, is engaged for a considerable part of the day in other occupations connected with the police, it is difficult to understand how any supervision is to be maintained over the prisoners during his frequent absences. The walls of the garden have been somewhat raised with a view to additional security, but the whole enclosure is still so insecure that, if the male prisoners were permitted to make use of the airing-yards, escapes would be very frequent. The whole accommodation for male prisoners, as stated in the last Report, consists of two cells, each containing one bed; and when it is considered that in the last year there were *at one time* 27 men in confinement, the indecency, illegality, and inhumanity of such a state of things need not be dwelt upon. It is true that at the time alluded to there were no females in confinement, which admitted of their two cells being given up to the men, and that three of the latter were taken to sleep elsewhere; the fact, however, remains, that 24 *men were made to sleep in four single beds!* Some of these were under sentence of no less than three months' imprisonment. A parallel instance, but of smaller magnitude, is recorded in the account of this gaol in the Fourteenth Report of the Inspectors of Prisons; which, as it came under my knowledge at the time, I felt it my duty to make known to the Secretary of State. This representation led to the pardon of the prisoners, by which, as a choice of evils, the law was defeated from the insufficiency of the prison to carry out its sentences.

Prisoners on the day of Inspection.

The only prisoners in confinement on the day of my visit were one male and one female for smuggling, each under sentence of six months' imprisonment, which, in the case of the man, had been mitigated by the Treasury to three months'.

Cleanliness.

The only means of washing prisoners on admission, which is generally very needful from the filthy state in which they are received, is by placing them in a tank, where one man washes another. The indecency of stripping one prisoner in the presence of another is prohibited in all well-conducted prisons. In the morning the prisoners wash themselves in a trough in the yard. There is no prison dress allowed. The bedding is very deficient in quantity, and was very dirty at the time of my visit. Sheets are only allowed to the better class of prisoners.

Diet.

Prisoners confined for less than 14 days are allowed 1 lb. of bread, with a pint of gruel night and morning. Those confined for longer terms have an additional ½ lb. of bread and peas-soup at dinner three times a-week. They are also allowed 4 lbs. of potatoes per week.

Health.

The office of surgeon being a piece of patronage in the gift of the mayor, that officer is generally changed annually. It is not surprising, therefore, that he should not keep a register, or perform the other duties required by the 4th Geo. IV.

c. 64, s. 33, inasmuch as his tenure of office is so limited. His salary is only 5*l.* per annum, out of which he finds any medicines that may be required. The prison was not visited by cholera while that disease prevailed in the town, which must be regarded as a somewhat remarkable fact; as, at the time of my visit, when only two prisoners were in confinement, the atmosphere was very offensive.

Moral and Religious Instruction.

In the last Report upon this prison it was stated that no provision had been made for spiritual instruction. I regret to say that the same neglect of the trust confided to the magistates continues to the present time. It occasionally happens that a Wesleyan minister visits the prisoners, but no clergyman of the Church of England, either voluntary or stipendiary, takes any share in their instruction. Some members of the Society of Friends are very assiduous in their attendance, seldom allowing a week to pass without visiting the prison; and as they are frequently able to speak the northern languages, and supply foreign prisoners with books, their visits are very beneficial to the otherwise neglected inmates of the prison.

It is my duty to repeat that the appointment of a regular chaplain is *absolutely required* by the 4th Geo. IV. c. 64, s. 28.

It is, of course, needless to remark that no schoolmaster is employed.

Punishments.

As there are no rules or discipline, it need scarcely be observed that there are no punishments inflicted on the prisoners.

Labour.

There is no sort of labour or employment of any kind given to the prisoners.

Books.

No books are kept in the prison, except a rough register of the commitments, and an account book of receipts and disbursements. The bread is bought by contract.

General Observations.

The staff of the prison is quite inefficient, for, although the keeper is an intelligent man, his power of performing his duty is taken from him by his being also employed in the police of the town; and as no turnkey is engaged, the prisoners, males as well as females, are virtually in the custody of the keeper's wife for a more or less considerable part of every day.

The whole number of prisoners committed in each of the last two years is shown in the following table:—

TOTAL Number of Prisoners in Confinement in the course of the Year ending at Michaelmas.

	1849			1850		
	Males.	Fem.	Total.	Males.	Fem.	Total.
CRIMINAL PRISONERS.						
1. In Custody at the commencement of the Year :—						
Prisoners for Trial	1	..	1	..	..	..
Summarily Convicted	5	1	6	..	..	..
2. Received under Commitments and who have not been in the Custody of other Governors :—						
Prisoners for Trial	2	2	4	..	1	1
Transferred to other Governors for Trial	..	..	..	1	1	2
Rendered in Court for Trial	..	..	..	1	..	1
Summarily Convicted	77	4	81	49	1	50
3. Committed for Examination, but afterwards Discharged, not being fully Committed	..	..	..	11	2	13
Total of Criminals	85	7	92	62	5	67
Greatest Number of Prisoners at any one time	27	..	27	12	1	13

The expenditure in the year 1850 amounted to 183*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, of which the following are the principal items :—

	£.	s.	d.
Prison diet	38	0	0
Clothing and bedding	3	0	0
Fuel, light, and soap	8	0	0
Salaries	55	0	0
Repairs	85	0	0

The receipts in the same period have been 30*l.*, principally from payments for the subsistence of revenue prisoners.

PENZANCE.—TOWN GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

This prison has been fully described in the Fourteenth Report, since the publication of which no alteration has taken place in the buildings. The solitary cell, in the females' yard, is used for prisoners of both sexes; so that the men, when under punishment, can converse freely with the females in the exercising-yard. This is obviously very improper, both in its application as a punishment-cell, and when used for solitary confinement by sentence of courts. With reference to its latter application, it should be remarked, that having been originally intended as a punishment-cell, and therefore made dark, it is

unfit to be so employed—one of the conditions of such sentence being, that prisoners should be able to read in the cells in which it is carried out.

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of Penzance on the 15th of July, 1850.

Convicted Prisoners.

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
G. C.	16	Stealing from the person.	12 Mar. 1850	30 Mar. 1850	Sessions . .	6 months' hard labour and twice privately whipped.
R. H.	28	Stealing two silver spoons.	17 Jan. „	30 „ „	„	4 months' hard labour.
A. R.	40	Drunk and disorderly.	15 April „	. . .	Summarily .	To find two sureties in 10*l.* each.

Prisoners for Trial.

Name.	Age.	Specific Offence charged.	Date of Commitment.	Whether for Trial at Assizes or Sessions.
J. L. .	16	Stealing a birdcage . .	12 April, 1850	Sessions.
J. B. .	18	Stealing two printed shawls from her master	22 „ „	24 July, 1850.

From the defective accommodation of the prison, which affords only one division for prisoners of either sex, untried and convicted prisoners are necessarily placed together, contrary to law. This was the case with the male prisoners on the day of my visit; and if it had not been for this breach of the law, they would have been in solitary confinement, there being only one untried and one convicted male in custody. The unconvicted female, too, would have been in the like predicament, had the provisions of the law been capable of being observed. These examples are mentioned to show the disadvantages of very small prisons. More striking illustrations still, however, of the same principle, are to be found in the prison under consideration, arising from its having among its officers none in the capacity of chaplain or schoolmaster. These deficiencies have been pointed out in every Report upon this prison, more especially in the Fourteenth, to which reference has already been made; and I am sorry to repeat that the law is still violated in this particular. Divine Service had not been performed for at least 18 months before my visit, and no religious or secular instruction of any kind had been given to the prisoners *in a*

lawful manner. At the time of my visit, the convicted male prisoner was engaged, by permission of the keeper, in teaching his untried companion to read; but as this involved a breach of another law, it can hardly be pleaded in mitigation of censure.

Clothing and Bedding. The supply of clothing and bedding is abundant, consisting of a quilt, blankets, and sheets. The clothing is of two kinds, to distinguish the untried from the convicted prisoners.

Diet The diet has not been altered in conformity with the recommendation of the Secretary of State. It appeared to me that the allowance of food to short-sentenced prisoners was unnecessarily large, which is always more or less the case when the same diet is given to all classes of prisoners.

The weekly allowance is the following:—

Bread	10½ lbs.
Cooked meat	10 oz.
Potatoes	4½ lbs.
Pea-soup	2 pints.
Gruel	14 ,,

I have endeavoured to point out, in the last Report, the advantage, economical as well as moral, that would attend the adoption of a graduated dietary; but this, like the rest of the recommendations in that Report, has been hitherto disregarded.

Health. The health of the prison was good at the time of my visit. The surgeon is only required to attend when sent for. The cholera, which ravaged many parts of Cornwall in 1849, did not visit this prison; indeed, there were only two cases in the town.

Punishments The punishments are numerous, beyond all example that I am acquainted with; the number in the last year, 1849 (as I ascertained from the register), having been 160, while the whole number of prisoners in the same time was only 41! Perhaps the peculiar position of the punishment-cell, above alluded to, may have been instrumental in swelling the catalogue to this remarkable degree.

Labour There is no labour but that of the treadmill. At the time of my visit there was, as seen above, only one convicted male prisoner, who exercised himself upon it; but as the other occupations of the keeper take him frequently away, and there is no turnkey to take his place, the inducements to regularity of work are not very considerable, and the prospect of impunity leads a prisoner to incur the small risk of punishment for its neglect.

The registers are tolerably kept. The provisions are purchased by contract, at the following prices:—

	s.	*d.*	
Bread, 1½ lb.	0	2½	
Meat, with bone	0	5	per lb.
Oatmeal	16	0	per cwt.

There have been no debtors in the prison for many years, but they may at any time be brought there. Should this happen while criminals are in confinement, it is difficult to say where they could be put without associating them with prisoners of the criminal class.

The following table shows the relative numbers in two successive years:—

TOTAL Number of Prisoners in Confinement in the course of the Years ending at Michaelmas 1849 and 1850.

	1849			1850		
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Male.	Fem.	Total.
CRIMINAL PRISONERS.						
1. In Custody at the commencement of the Year:—						
Prisoners for Trial	1	..	1	..	..	..
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions	..	4	4	..	..	..
Summarily Convicted	1	..	1	2	1	3
2. Received under Commitments and who have not been in the Custody of other Governors:—						
Prisoners for Trial	2	..	2	4	3	7
Transferred to other Governors for Trial	..	1	1	..	..	..
Rendered in Court for Trial	..	..	..	..	1	1
Summarily Convicted	23	9	32	14	5	19
Total	27	14	41	20	10	30
Greatest Number of Criminal Prisoners at any one time	10	2	12	5	5	10

The expenditure in the year amounted to 116*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, including the following items:—

	£.	s.	d.
Prison diet	25	0	0
Clothing	3	0	0
Fuel, light, and soap	6	0	0
Rent and taxes	8	0	0
Salaries	60	0	0
Repairs	8	0	0

There does not appear to have been any sum received from the Treasury for the maintenance of convicted prisoners, nor, indeed, any receipt whatever.

DEVONSHIRE.

EXETER CITY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

No change has been made in this prison since the date of the last Report, calculated to render it more fit for carrying

out any proper system of discipline, or to remedy the many defects pointed out at that time; the only alteration of any kind having consisted in the construction, against the boundary wall, of a room intended to be used as a cookhouse. Having, in my last Report, pointed out the impossibility of suggesting in what manner the numerous deficiencies of this prison can be remedied, without the entire reconstruction of the building on a much extended site, and feeling confirmed in the opinion that this measure ought not to be longer delayed, unless the Town Council should prefer to make an arrangement with the county magistrates for the reception of the borough prisoners in the county gaol, I cannot regard the expenditure, however small, incurred in the alteration alluded to, in any other light than as a waste of money. In order to show that the opinion here expressed is that which has been entertained by successive Visiting Justices, it is only necessary to refer to the repeated reports made by them to the town council, expressive of the total inadequacy of the accommodation of the prison to its ordinary requirements, still more to the reception of the maximum number of prisoners occasionally committed to it, and of the impossibility, by any alteration of the present buildings, of effecting a proper separation of the several classes of prisoners. I feel it necessary, however, to invite more especial attention to the report of a committee appointed to consider the question in all its bearings, because it appears quite conclusive as to the desirableness of either adopting the proposal of removing the borough prisoners to the county gaol, or of changing the site, and building a new prison on the separate system. The report alluded to is as follows:—

"Report.

"The Committee appointed on the 13th December, 1848, to consider the present state of the Exeter prisons, with a view to economize the expenditure of the city prisons and to improve the prison discipline, and also to confer with the Visiting Justices of the county of Devon at an early day, to see if any arrangement could be made for receiving the prisoners from Exeter at the Devon county prisons, or to appropriate the ward in St. Thomas as a prison for Exeter, or what other arrangements could be made, have given the above matters their fullest attention and consideration, and beg to report as follows:—

"In the first place, they applied themselves to ascertain correctly the number of prisoners for which it is the duty of this council to provide adequate and legal accommodation, and the accommodation which the Exeter prison now affords, together with its annual expense to the city. In order to arrive at a just conclusion with regard to these particulars, your Committee have had placed before them returns for the last seven years. From these it appears that, including debtors, the average number of prisoners amounts to 47; the least number of prisoners at any one time amounted to 19, and the largest to 77.

"The accommodation afforded by the prison consists, on the male side, for prisoners, of

Four day-rooms, with airing-yards attached.
Ten single cells, giving sleeping accommodation for . . 10
Four treble cells 12

"For debtors:

One large day-room.
Two large dormitories, giving sleeping accommodation for 12
Six small dormitories 6

"On the female side:

Three day-rooms, with airing-yards attached.
Ten single cells, giving sleeping accommodation for . . 10
Four treble cells 12

"It has, however, lately been found convenient to convert the lower portion of the debtors' prison, consisting of the large dormitories and a day-room, with airing-yard, to the purposes of the male criminals: so that, according to the present arrangement, the accommodation of the prison stands thus:—

"For male prisoners:

Five day-rooms, with airing-yard attached.
Sixteen dormitories, capable of accommodating . . 34

"The debtors' accommodation consists of six angle rooms for males, with one airing-yard. There is no accommodation for female debtors, so that on the female side there are—

Three day-rooms, with airing-yard attached.
(There were four, but one has been converted into and is used as a laundry.)
Ten single cells, giving sleeping accommodation for . . 10
Four treble cells 12

"Should there be a female debtor, she would occupy a room with no airing-yard attached, behind the chapel, which was originally intended for an infirmary.

"The gross annual expense of maintaining this establishment amounts, according to the return made to your Committee by your treasurer, to 750*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.*; but as this average is deduced from a return which includes the capital sum of 150*l.* for erecting receiving cells in 1845, the gross average annual expenditure should be stated at 729*l.* 6*s.*, and is made up of the following items:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Salaries	293	14	3
Repairs	45	13	4
Coals	33	6	9
Candles and soap	15	4	7
Rates and taxes	0	12	5
Maintenance of prisoners	207	16	4
Bedding and clothing	26	12	1
Incidentals	38	6	5
Removal of convicts	67	19	10
	£729	6	0

"Of the above, there is repaid by the Government the sum of 254*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, being—for the maintenance of prisoners 186*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*,

and for the removal of convicts 67*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*; so that the average net annual expense of the prison amounts to 474*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*, viz.:—

	£.	s.	d.			
For staff	293	14	3			
Repairs	45	13	4			
Incidentals	38	6	5			
Rates and taxes	0	12	5			
				378	6	5
Leaving for maintenance, clothing, &c. . . .				96	6	3
				£474	12	8

"Having ascertained the above facts, your Committee viewed the subject in reference to the first part of your directions—namely, 'to economize the expenditure of the city prisons, and to improve the prison discipline.'

"After a minute investigation, your Committee cannot detect any sources of undue expenditure, nor are they prepared to state that any deductions in the staff can be made consistently with the efficiency of the prison. With regard to discipline, they have to state that that which is efficient and highly to be desired cannot be carried out, inasmuch as the accommodation is not only deficient, but your Committee are informed by your town-clerk that it is likewise so in its legal requirements, inasmuch as the Act of Parliament requires that there shall be accommodation to permit the following classification of prisoners:—

"1. Debtors.

"2. Prisoners convicted of felony.

"3. Prisoners convicted of misdemeanors, first division.

"4. Ditto, second division.

"5. Persons committed on charge or suspicion of felony.

"6. Persons committed on charge or suspicion of misdemeanors, or for want of sureties.

"It should be observed, that a further division for fraudulent debtors has been recently ordered by the Secretary of State.

"The present requirements, therefore, amount to seven day-rooms and seven airing-yards, for both male and female prisoners; while we have shown that the accommodation at present afforded amounts to but five for the former, and three for the latter, which is still further narrowed by there being but two airing-yards on the female side.

"As regards sleeping accommodation, there is a deficiency of eleven dormitories for male and one for female prisoners. In the debtors' division of the prison, as at present used, there is a deficiency on the male side of three dormitories, and (it may be said) there is no accommodation at all on the female side.

"The total deficiency of sleeping accommodation, including the debtors' portion, amounts to 15. It must be borne in mind that this is not a hypothetical deficiency, but one that has really occurred.

"Having duly ascertained these deficiencies in the prison, your Committee took into consideration the various means indicated by your resolution for their remedy, which they now proceed to detail.

"In the first place, they desired your surveyor to furnish them with plans and estimates for making such alterations as might be necessary for accommodating the proper number of prisoners in accordance with

the requirements of the statute, each prisoner having a separate dormitory. Your Committee made this last condition absolute, from the conviction that no system of prison discipline can be satisfactorily carried on without it.

" Your surveyor accordingly submitted to the Committee a set of plans to accommodate, by separate cells, 70 prisoners, divided into 14 classes, with the like number of day-rooms and airing-yards attached. The estimated expense of carrying this into effect, together with erecting an extended boundary-wall to include the whole of the land belonging to the city prison, is 2326*l.*, with an increased annual outlay for repairs of 25*l.*

" Your surveyor is of opinion that this alteration would not involve any further expense upon the city, as neither the staff nor furniture need be thereby increased.

" It will be convenient, for the subsequent purposes of this Report, to reduce the above gross estimated cost of thus enlarging the prisons to the annual charge it will entail upon the city; and, practically, it is the best and clearest way of laying the subject before the council. It may be thus stated:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Annual charge upon the city of 2326*l.*, calculated at 6 per cent.	139	11	2
Annual charge for repairs	25	0	0
	£164	11	2

So that to render the city prison adequate, according to the present requirements of the law, will lead to an annual increased charge of 164*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*

" Your Committee next conferred with the Visiting Justices of the county, in order to see if any arrangement could be made for receiving the prisoners from Exeter at the Devon county gaol.

" The Visiting Justices of the county informed them that they should require from the city such a sum of money as would cover the expense of erecting cells, according to the plan of the Model Prison at Pentonville—viz. 13 feet by 7, and 9 feet high, fitted up with water-closet, supplied with water, and well ventilated with hot and cold air, &c., for the maximum number of city prisoners; which, assuming that number to be 80, would amount to 6000*l.* at the rate of 75*l.* per cell, the money to be paid by quarterly instalments, the first instalment to become due at Christmas, 1850.

" It is due to the Visiting Justices to observe that in the above sum nothing is charged for ground-rent.

" In addition to the 6000*l.*, there would be a charge of 1*l.* per cent. for repairs, amounting to 60*l.* per annum; for proportion of the staff, 300*l.* per annum; together with a charge of the maintenance and clothing of the prisoners, to be calculated at the same rate per head as the expenses incurred on this account by the county prisoners.

" Your Committee were further informed by the Visiting Justices that any arrangement of this kind must be considered permanent, and that, in case of any alterations being contemplated by the Visiting Justices, or entailed upon them by the Government, the city would not be called upon to contribute thereto.

" Your Committee further ascertained that the plan to be pursued in

the management of the prisoners at the county prisons is to be that which is pursued at the Model Prison at Pentonville, under the sanction of the Secretary of State, and is comprehended under the term 'the Separate system;' that, as regards staff and diet, the efficiently carrying out this system is more expensive than that which is pursued under the old system of classification as required by law; but that the opinion of the Visiting Justices is, that compensating advantages, in an economical point of view, will be obtained by its lessening the number of prisoners.

"Your Committee also thought it their duty to ascertain the position which the magistrates of the city would hold as regards the Visiting Justices of the county, and the jurisdiction they would possess over the city prisoners. It appears there is no power to nominate the city magistrates as Visiting Justices, but that they would have the same authority as the magistrates of the county not being Visiting Justices. The magistrates for the city would thus have liberty at all times to visit the city prisoners, but not to interfere with the regulations of the gaol.

"Your Committee think it right, however, to say, that not only in this, but in the whole course of their negotiation, the Visiting Justices of the county showed every disposition to be liberal and most accommodating in their views; and they wished it to be fully understood that, should any of the city magistrates be also magistrates of the county, they would see to their appointment as Visiting Justices.

"It now remains for your Committee to view this arrangement with reference to the city finances. In order to do this, it will be first necessary to deduct the value of the city prison and its site; the former of which your surveyor values at 400*l.*, and the latter at 1000*l.* This would reduce the capital outlay to 4600*l.* The annual expense to the city will then stand thus:—

	£.	s.	d.
£4600 at 6 per cent.	276	0	0
Repairs	60	0	0
Staff	300	0	0
Total cost per annum	£636	0	0
From this is to be deducted, however, the sum now expended in the city prison for repairs, and all that is included by the county in the term Staff, amounting to	378	6	5
	£257	13	7

Leaving an increased annual charge to the city of 257*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*, which may be considered as the annual sum it would cost the city above their present expenditure to remove the Exeter prisoners to the county gaol.

"In order fully to appreciate the bearings of this subject, and from an impression very generally prevailing that eventually the Government may order some system of prison discipline, in accordance with or not altogether unlike that pursued at Pentonville, your Committee directed your surveyor to furnish plans and estimates for providing accommodation for the city prisoners in accordance therewith; and he has submitted to their consideration a design which appears practicable and easy to be carried out, at an estimated outlay of 3500*l.*, with an additional annual outlay for repairs of 25*l.*

"In any calculation, however, which must be made of the alteration of this system, it must be borne in mind that an increase in the expense of the staff will be entailed, and your Committee cannot estimate that

this will amount to less than 70*l.* per annum, so that the adoption of this plan would entail upon the city an annual increase of expenditure of—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
£3500 at 6 per cent. per annum	210	0	0
Increase of repairs	25	0	0
Increase of salaries	70	0	0
	£305	0	0

"Your surveyor further submitted to your Committee an estimate for erecting the city prisons on a fresh site, and that, including such site, a prison having all the requirements of the prison at Pentonville could be built for 5500*l.* From this should be deducted the value of the present site and building, 1400*l.*, leaving a gross expenditure of 4100*l.* Assuming the repairs at 1*l.* per cent. on the outlay of building at 5000*l.*, to the above must be added an increase of repairs over that of the old prisons of 5*l.*, and also the probable increase of salaries to meet this system of 70*l.*

"The annual cost of thus transferring and re-erecting the prisons, would stand thus:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
£4100 at 6 per cent. interest	246	0	0
Increase of repairs over old prisons	5	0	0
Increase of salaries	70	0	0
	£321	0	0

"Your Committee were further requested to ascertain whether the ward in St. Thomas could be appropriated to the purposes of the city prisoners. Your surveyor has accordingly inspected this prison, and reported that, independently of its distance from Exeter, and the objectionableness of its situation as regards drainage, &c., the buildings are not calculated for a felon's prison upon the parliamentary plan without extensive alterations, and could not by any means be adapted to the Separate system. Your Committee, therefore, have given this no further consideration.

"With regard to the plans which your Committee have taken into their consideration, they beg to make the following observations; and in order to view the subject simply, they here repeat the comparative increase of the annual expense of each over the present plan:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
1. Alteration of the city prison to meet the present requirements of the law	164	11	2
2. To remove prisoners to the county gaol	257	13	7
3. To alter the present city prison to the Separate system	305	0	0
4. To change the site and build new prison on the Separate system	321	0	0

"The results of the inquiries made by the Committee appear to be, that if the council should determine to make the Exeter prison applicable to the present requirements of the law, it can be done at a much less expense than by transferring the Exeter prisoners to the county prisons; but the Committee would suggest that it would be better for the council to defer altering the present prison for the present, as the system of prison discipline is still unsettled, and there is reason to believe that in the ensuing Session of Parliament the subject will be brought under the consideration of the Legislature, with a view to the adoption of some general system adapted to all prisons.

"If, however, the council should deem the Separate system, according to the present practice in the Pentonville prison, the most eligible, there would be, by transferring the city prisoners to the county prison, over altering the city prisons in accordance with the present requirements, an annual saving of 50*l.*; but it should, at the same time, be observed that in the above financial calculations no consideration has been given to the subjects of compensation to the present officers of the prison, nor of any lock-up house for the city, should such be required, as these are not essential conditions, but matters for general consideration.

"T. Shapter, Chairman.

"*Guildhall, 21st August*, 1849."

With reference to the first of the four propositions enumerated above, it must be evident that, as it contemplates no further alteration of the present building than would suffice for keeping the classes of prisoners apart from each other, the several individuals of each class being still herded together in day-rooms without the supervision of officers, by far the worst parts of the present system would be perpetuated. The third proposal in order could only lead to disappointment as an imperfect measure, for it would be manifestly impossible to construct upon the present site a sufficient number of cells to meet the requirements of the prison admitting of being certified for separate confinement, without such a limitation of the area to be devoted to airing-grounds as would render the prison very unhealthy. Comparing, then, the two remaining schemes pointed out in the Report—namely, the location of the prisoners in the county gaol, and the erection of a new prison on the Separate system—I am decidedly of opinion that economy would be consulted by the adoption of the former, even in a greater degree than is contemplated in the Report; feeling, as I do, very apprehensive, from the results of all preceding experiments in prison building, that a good and substantial prison for 80 prisoners, with the necessary offices and boundary-wall, could not be built for the sum mentioned by the surveyor—namely, 5500*l.*

Before taking leave of this subject, I feel bound to urge again most strongly that no further delay should take place in the adoption of one or other of the methods of improvement last referred to, more especially as the town council have, by their resolution of the 12th of December, 1849, plainly intimated their intention of being guided by the opinion of the Parliamentary Committee, and as that Committee has, in its recent Report, pronounced so unequivocally in favour of the "separate confinement" of prisoners.

Prisoners on the day of Inspection.

The following list shows the number of criminal prisoners in confinement on the day of inspection; besides whom, there was a single male debtor, and two under remand for further examination:—

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of the City of Exeter on the 4th of November, 1850.

Convicted Prisoners.

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
*A. B. . .	20	Stealing a shawl, a pillow, pillow-case, and other articles	17 April, 1850	1 July, 1850	Sessions . . .	10 calendar months' hard labour, 20 days solitary, 2 days at a time
*E. H. .	42	Stealing 16 lbs. weight of rags	29 „ „	1 „ „	Ditto . . .	6 calendar months' hard labour.
S. T. . .	21	Stealing a handkerchief from the person	4 May „	1 „ „	Ditto . . .	6 „ „
*C. W. .	40	Stealing 19s. from the person	13 „ „	1 „ „	Ditto . . .	6 „ „
J. I. . .	20	„ a gold watch . .	3 July „	30 „ „	Ditto . . .	12 „ „
H. S. . .	15	„ a handkerchief .	12 „ „	30 „ „	Ditto . . .	12 „ „ and to be twice whipped.
*R. G. . .	39	„ a gown, blankets, and other articles	13 „ „	30 „ „	Ditto . . .	12 calendar months' hard labour.
W. W. .	18	Stealing a pair of stays . .	16 „ „	30 „ „	Ditto . . .	6 „ „ 2 weeks solitary.
J. T. . .	19	„ 5 promissory notes, and other money	24 „ „	30 „ „	Ditto . . .	6 calendar months' hard labour.
J. M. .	16	Embezzling 8s.	7 Aug. „	14 Oct. „	Ditto . . .	2 „ „ 8 days solitary, 3 at a time.
*M. A. E. D.	39	Stealing a shawl	21 „ „	14 „ „	Ditto . . .	6 weeks' hard labour.
J. M. . .	18	Housebreaking and stealing 14 silver spoons	7 Sept. „	14 „ „	Ditto . . .	10 years' transportation.
*M. A. M.	33	Stealing a shawl . . .	30 „ „	14 „ „	Ditto . . .	6 calendar months' hard labour.
*M. M. .	40	„ 5 lbs. weight of pork	7 Oct. „	14 „ „	Ditto . . .	2 „ „

* Females.

Convicted Prisoners—*continued.*

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
J. B.	55	Vagrancy	5 Oct. 1850	..	Summarily	1 calendar months' hard labour.
E. P.	19	Ditto	11 „ „	..	Ditto	3 „ „
J. W.	20	Ditto	11 „ „	..	Ditto	3 „ „
J. C.	19	Ditto	12 „ „	..	Ditto	2 calendar months' imprisonment.
J. F.	28	An assault	21 „ „	..	Ditto	21 days' imprisonment, or pay thes um of 23*s.* 6*d.*
W. T.	30	Assaulting a police constable in the execution of his duty	23 „ „	..	Ditto	1 calendar month's imprisonment, or pay the sum of 5*l.*
*E. M.	22	Abusive language in the public street.	28 „ „	..	Ditto	14 days' imprisonment, or pay the sum of 14*s.* 6*d.*
*J. M.	18	Abusive language in the public street.	28 „ „	..	Ditto	14 days' imprisonment, or pay the sum of 14*s.* 6*d.*
W. S.	40	Vagrancy	29 „ „	..	Ditto	1 week's hard labour.
T. T.	..	An assault	29 „ „	..	Ditto	1 calendar month's imprisonment, or pay the sum of 5*l.*
J. H.	17	Vagrancy	30 „ „	..	Ditto	14 days' hard labour.
G. N.	21	Assaulting a constable in the execution of his duty.	2 Nov. „	..	Ditto	1 calendar month's hard labour, or pay the sum of 45*s.*
C. P.	20	Abusive language in the public street.	2 „ „	..	Ditto	21 days' imprisonment, or pay the sum of 24*s.* 6*d.*
*S. M.	23	Abusive language in the public street.	2 „ „	..	Ditto	1 week's imprisonment, or pay the sum of 5*s.*
W. B.	24	An assault	2 „ „	..	Ditto	14 days' imprisonment, or pay the sum of 14*s.* 6*d.*
W. C.	28	Abusive language in the public street.	2 „ „	..	Ditto	1 week's imprisonment, or pay the sum of 8*s.* 6*d.*

* Females.

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of the City of Exeter on the 4th of November, 1850.

Prisoners for Trial.

Name.	Age.	Specific Offence charged.	Date of Commitment.	Whether for Trial at Assizes or Sessions.
*H. T..	16	Obtaining two cakes under false pretences.	24 Oct. 1850	Sessions.
W. B.	18	Stealing a glass case and six pounds of sealing-wax of the value of 4*s.* per pound.	25 „ „	Ditto.
T. S.	15	Stealing a glass case and six pounds' weight of sealing-wax.	25 „ „	Ditto.

* Female.

The whole number committed in the course of the two years ending with last Michaelmas is shown in the subjoined table :—

TOTAL Number of Prisoners in Confinement in the course of the Years ending at Michaelmas 1849 and 1850.

	1849			1850		
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Male.	Fem.	Total.
CRIMINAL PRISONERS.						
1. In Custody at the commencement of the Year :—						
Prisoners for Trial	9	3	12	6	3	9
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions .	8	7	15	9	7	16
Summarily convicted	12	3	15	9	2	11
2. Received under Commitments and who have not been in the Custody of other Governors :—						
Prisoners for Trial	54	23	77	41	20	61
Rendered in Court for Trial . .	3	3	6	4	1	5
Summarily Convicted	216	70	286	176	65	241
Total of Criminals . . .	302	109	411	245	98	343
DEBTORS.						
3. In Custody at the commencement of the Year	2	..	2	1	1	2
4. Admitted in the course of the Year	29	2	31	23	2	25
Total of Debtors and Criminals	333	111	444	269	101	370
Deaths in the course of the Year .	1	..	1	1	..	1
Prisoners pardoned on Medical grounds	1	1	2	2	1	3
Greatest Number at any one time :—						
Criminal Prisoners	50	11	61	39	10	49
Debtors	9	..	9	4	1	5

Clothing. All the female prisoners are dressed in the prison clothing, as are all convicted males except those summarily convicted, and even the latter when their clothes are dirty and ragged. This regulation, especially as it refers to the men, is a great improvement upon the custom prevailing formerly, and would be still further to be commended if it included all prisoners both before and after trial; the raggedness and disreputable appearance of the clothing of discharged prisoners (often occasioned by their long use in prison) being frequently stated as a ground for their not getting into employment.

Diet. The diet is still open to most of the objections mentioned in the last Report, although it has undergone some improvement with reference to prisoners sentenced to long terms, by the addition of two ounces of oatmeal in gruel. As, however, this is extended to all prisoners alike, and as all still enjoy the same amount of nourishment, however short their sentences, the principal objection urged before remains without remedy.

Health. The surgeon's duties remain as described in former Reports. He is not required, as in most prisons, to examine prisoners on admission, although, from the indiscriminate manner in which they are associated together, it is here most especially necessary to ascertain their freedom from infectious diseases. The prison has been healthy in the last year as regards its exemption from cholera and other epidemics, but it has been shown above that one prisoner has died, and that three have been pardoned on the ground of dangerous illness in the course of the year.

Religious and Moral Instruction. The duty performed by the chaplain has been before described, and no alteration has been made in it. It is painful to repeat that no provision has been made for giving instruction to the prisoners (as required by law), by the appointment of a schoolmaster.

Punishments. The punishments inflicted for breach of prison discipline are not recorded in a separate book, a custom generally adopted elsewhere with good effect, as the previous offences of a prisoner are often and very properly taken as an element in adjudging the punishment for any breach of rules; besides which, every facility should be afforded to Visiting Justices and other superintending authorities for ascertaining that the Governor has exercised his authority with a proper regard for justice. There is a general recklessness of demeanour about the prisoners, which is not peculiar, but generally found to prevail in gaols managed under the same system of unrestrained intercourse and defective supervision.

Labour. There is no kind of employment provided for those prisoners who do not work on the treadmill; consequently, untried prisoners are not allowed the option of employment, nor is light labour found for those not sentenced to hard labour. By a most unusual interpretation of the law, also, prisoners under

sentence of transportation are altogether exempted from labour, and spend their time in absolute idleness.

The total expenditure of the prison in the last year was 813*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*, of which the following were the principal items in round numbers:— Expenditure.

	£.	s.	d.
Salaries and pensions	284	0	0
Prison diet	254	0	0
Clothing and bedding	63	0	0
Repairs	64	0	0
Fuel, light, and soap	63	0	0
Sundries	41	0	0

The only receipts were 224*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* from the Government, for the maintenance of convicted prisoners and the removal of convicts. All provisions are bought by contract, except potatoes.

Debtors are received from county courts, as well as in execution. The accommodation for males of this class is sufficient, but there are no rooms for female debtors, nor any airing-yard for them. Debtors.

Prisoners are still brought to the prison when remanded for further examination,—an evil which might easily be avoided by improving the lock-up house (as suggested by me), and having a resident officer there. Before the hour of locking up, too, the police are authorized to bring in persons taken up on charges. It is difficult to imagine any advantage from this practice except to the prisoners in the gaol, whom it serves to keep *au courant* with the proceedings of the thieves out of doors, thus saving them the trouble of tracing out their accomplices on their discharge. General Observations.

The staff of the prison consists of the governor, chaplain, surgeon, matron, and two male turnkeys, one of whom acts as porter.

BRADNINCH.—BOROUGH GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

As I have stated in a former Report, this prison ranks only as a respectable lock-up-house, and is imperfect even in that particular, having no accommodation for a resident officer. In the Fourteenth Report, page 53, a minute description has been given of the construction of this prison and of the extent of accommodation it affords, from which it will be seen how entirely impossible it is to carry out any system of classification or discipline sanctioned by law. Nevertheless it continues to be used whenever an occasion arises for the confinement of prisoners both before and after trial, no alteration of any kind having been made. Although no prisoners were in confinement at the time of my last inspection, and it was stated to me that none had been committed for many months, still the objection

remains that it is liable to be so employed at any moment, and instances have even occurred of prisoners having been kept here for many weeks and even months in solitude and idleness. The prison being very insecure, and the walls of the airing-yards such as could be easily scaled, there is the greatest risk that persons committed for any serious offence will avail themselves of the opportunities of escape thus afforded. As an instance confirmatory of this remark it may be mentioned that a man under sentence of transportation had one arm chained to his side all the time that he remained in this prison to prevent him from making his escape over the wall in the absence of the officer, whose supervision was limited, as it always is, to an occasional visit, for the purpose of giving food to the prisoners. It would seem almost superfluous to point out a single act of illegality in a prison in which so many provisions of the law are disregarded; but it may be noticed with respect to this case that the prisoner was subjected to an illegal restraint in order to obtain that secure custody which ought to have been provided in the shape of a proper prison and a resident officer.

There is no regular dietary, but the gaoler receives 3*s.* 6*d.* a week for each prisoner in confinement, which is laid out as he may desire.

No moral or religious instruction of any kind is provided for the prisoners, although such is expressly required by law, and as no labour or employment is given to them, however long they may remain in confinement, they have no resource but to carve long inscriptions upon the stone walls illustrative of their histories.

It is hardly necessary to observe that no books are kept in the prison to record the number of commitments or for any other purpose.

It is inconceivable that such a state of things should be permitted to continue, when it might be immediately remedied by committing all prisoners to the county gaol of Exeter, which is within half an hour's ride of Bradninch by railway.

SOUTH MOLTON.—BOROUGH GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

This prison, which from its small size does not admit of the classification of prisoners required by law, is nevertheless used as a place of detention both before and after trial, none being sent to Exeter except such cases as are only triable at Assizes.

Prison Buildings.

It consists of a very small building, containing on the ground-floor four cells for men, opening directly into two airing-yards, and rooms above for females. The yards are separated by a low wall, and communications between prisoners confined in either may be reciprocally exchanged without difficulty. The

cells are floored with lime-ash, and each has an iron bedstead and bedding. One of them is provided with a fireplace, but the rest are destitute of all means of artificial warmth or ventilation. In the cell with the fireplace there is also a bell, but the other cells are unprovided with the means of communication with the governor. The upper floor, which, as has been observed, is devoted to female prisoners, consists of a small day-room and dormitory on one side, and three sleeping cells on the other, the latter being sometimes used for men when the prison is full, to avoid the necessity of placing two in a cell. One only of the females' rooms is furnished with a bell and a fireplace. There are no special airing-yards for the women, who take exercise therefore in one of those already described, from which cause, as well as from the relative position of several parts of the prison, it is quite impossible to prevent the females from conversing with the male prisoners. There are two small sheds connected with the airing-yards; these, which are very damp and cold, are used by prisoners employed in crushing bones, the only description of labour performed in the prison, 28 lbs. being considered a fair average quantity for a prisoner to crush daily. The produce of this labour is about 5*l.* per annum.

Prisoners on the day of Inspection.

The only prisoner in confinement on the last day of inspection was R. L., aged 46, convicted of sheep-stealing at the last July sessions, and sentenced to nine months' imprisonment with hard labour. This man was suffering from a severe attack of catarrh, caught in pursuing his labour in the sheds before described.

Clothing and Bedding.

The prisoners wear their own clothes, and the bedding is defective in not comprising sheets, the use of which is found to be very conducive to health, cleanliness, and economy.

Diet.

The weekly allowance of food, which is the same to all male prisoners, whatever may be the length of their imprisonment:—

Bread	124 oz.
Milk	28 oz.
Bacon	1 lb.
Potatoes	7 lb.

To which is added the broth in which the bacon is boiled, thickened with a little flour. Female prisoners and children under 12 years of age have 14 oz. of bread deducted from the above; vagrants of both sexes have a daily allowance of 1½ lb. of bread and ¾ of a pint of milk with water, bacon and potatoes not being allowed to this class of prisoners.

Health.

The surgeon visits the prison about three times a week, but he is not sent for to examine prisoners on admission.

Moral and Religious Instruction.

There is no chaplain engaged in conformity with the 4th Geo. IV., cap. 64, sec. 28, neither is there any schoolmaster appointed, so that prisoners even for the longest term are

entirely destitute of moral and religious instruction, the only attempt at which is the reading of prayers by the gaoler on Sunday morning.

Debtors of all classes are sent from this borough to Exeter. The magistrates visit the prison frequently, their attendances being recorded at least once a month.

The defects of the prison, as above described, make it incumbent upon me to recommend that prisoners of all descriptions, whether summarily committed or for trial, should be sent to the county gaol immediately on their commitment.

The total number of prisoners committed for trial in the last two years has been eight, of whom two were women; the summary convictions in the same period having amounted to only ten, of whom four were males. The largest number in confinement at one time within the same period has been five.

The principal expenses of the prison are shown under the following heads:—

	£.	s.	d.
Prison diet	12	10	3
Salaries	40	0	0

SOUTH MOLTON.—LOCK-UP HOUSE AND POLICE-STATION.

This is a very inconvenient building, closely contiguous to the gaol. It comprises a room for taking charges, and two cells built of wood, lined with sheet iron; exceedingly cold and damp, situate in a yard so ill drained that water lies upon the stones. There are no means of warming the cells, which, from this deficiency, as well as from the dampness of the locality, cannot be used without danger to the health of persons confined in them. Their close contiguity too would enable persons confined in them to converse freely, neither would the means of communication with the prisoners from without be more difficult, inasmuch as the window of an adjoining tenement, used as a bakehouse, opens into the yard close to the cells, by which any persons obtaining access to the former might converse freely with prisoners in the latter.

The total number of prisoners confined in these cells during the two years ending October, 1850, amounted to 55 males and 18 females. Of these some were detained two days, and the largest number in confinement at one time has been three. Remanded cases are generally sent to the gaol.

Should my recommendation with reference to the gaol be adopted, any repairs or alterations of the lock-up house would be unnecessary, as the present gaol might be devoted to that purpose. Should that change, however, from any cause be delayed, it will be necessary that the lock-up house should be improved without delay.

BARNSTAPLE.—BOROUGH GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Prison Buildings.

The accommodation for prisoners consists of seven cells on the ground-floor for males, and the like number on the floor above for females. The cells are sufficiently spacious, but not being warmed or ventilated, or furnished with the means of communicating with the gaoler, cannot be certified for separate confinement. The windows of the cells are not glazed, the cold being excluded only by shutters, which render the cells too dark for ordinary purposes. The cells are paved with stone. Those of the females are opened by the same key as those of the males, in disregard of the express provision of the 2nd and 3rd Vict., cap. 56, sec. 6, and I may at the same time observe that sufficient care is not taken to observe another provision of the law, by which female prisoners are forbidden to be visited by the governor, except in company with a female officer. Some of the cells at the time of my last inspection were filled with wool and other articles, the property of the keeper.

There is only one airing-yard, in which poultry were kept at the time of my inspection. This yard is very insecure, as a prisoner might easily climb up any one of the walls, and the window-sills would form stepping stones; another objection to this yard is that it is overlooked by two windows of the adjoining building, now used as a lock-up house, so that the prisoners in the lock-up house can converse with prisoners at exercise in the prison, and even at night can hold conversation with the prisoners in their cells, the windows of which open also into the yard. Over the cells of the lock-up house is a small room, used as the prison chapel; in this are two benches for the male and female prisoners respectively, who sit face to face without any screen, contrary to the provisions of the law. Adjoining to the chapel are the rooms for debtors, which have not been used for the last three years, the only debtors in confinement during that period having been those committed by the County Court, and who are lodged and treated in all respects as felons. A day-room on the ground-floor, being the only one with a fireplace, is occasionally given up to prisoners in cold weather, from the difficulty of keeping them warm in their cells. The infirmary is a large room in the females' gallery. There is no airing-yard especially devoted to female prisoners, who can only take exercise in a small yard belonging to the keeper's house, which is overlooked on every side.

Prisoners on the day of Inspection.

The following list exhibits the prisoners in confinement on the day of inspection:—

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of Barnstaple on the 30th of October, 1850.

Convicted Prisoners.

Name.	Age	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
G. P.	19	Stealing tools . . .	8 May, 1850	16 July, 1850	Sessions . .	6 months' imprisonment to hard labr.
J. W.	23	,, shawls . .	24 July ,,	22 Oct. ,,	Ditto .	6 months' hard labr.
T. N.	19	,, ,, . .	24 ,, ,,	22 ,, ,,	Ditto .	6 months' hard labr.
J. C. .	29	Using palmistry . .	16 Oct. ,,	. .	Summarily.	
			FEMALE.			
J. B. .	49	Uttering base coin .	17 Dec. 1849	15 Jan. 1850	Sessions .	12 months and 1 day's imprisonment.

The only prisoner for trial was J. W., aged 42, committed on the 24th of October, and awaiting his trial at the Sessions.

The prisoner J. C. made the following complaint. He stated that he had 13*s.* in his possession at the time of his apprehension, of which 5*s.* had been taken from him as a fee to the magistrate's clerk, and 6*d.* to pay for his breakfast in the lock-up house; that the magistrates had ordered that 5*s.* 6*d.* of the remainder should be retained to cover the expenses of his maintenance in prison, and that 2*s.* only should be returned to him on his discharge. Feeling himself aggrieved by what he felt the illegal detention of his property, I pointed out to him that his proper course would be to petition the Secretary of State, which the keeper promised to enable him to do.

Clothing and Bedding.

The bedding consists of a straw mattress, the stuffing of which is changed every six weeks, and four rugs, but no blankets or sheets are allowed. There is no prison dress even for convicted prisoners, which is a very impolitic arrangement, and no less injurious to the prisoner's prospect of reformation, as it frequently happens on discharge from prison after a long confinement the men have no decent clothes to go to work in. The magistrates sometimes allow prisoners clothes and shoes when their own are worn out, but they do not decently refit them on their discharge.

Diet.

The weekly diet is as follows:—

For vagrants . . 168 oz. bread, with water only.

That of other prisoners consists of—

Bread	144 oz.
Bacon	16 oz.
Potatoes	4 lbs.
Soup	1 pint.
Rice	8 oz.
Treacle	2 oz.
Milk	3½ pints.

No difference is made in the diet of prisoners, whether they be confined for short or for long periods. None of the provisions except the bread are bought by contract.

The surgeon is only expected to attend when sent for. His journal does not contain, as required by law, any record of the medicines prescribed for prisoners. His visits are very unfrequent, no entry having been made between April 22nd and May 30th, between May 30th and July 20th, nor between September 9th and October 12th. Health.

The chaplain, who receives only 10*l.* per annum as salary, attends on Sunday and Thursday, on each of which days he performs Divine Service and preaches a sermon, besides which he visits and sees prisoners privately at other times. There is no schoolmaster employed. Moral and Religious Instruction.

The only labour performed in the prison is the picking of oakum, of which 2½ lbs. are required to be picked daily by each prisoner; as, however, no penalty attaches to the non-performance of the stipulated task, it is very doubtful whether that amount of work is ever performed. Labour.

The accommodation for debtors is fully sufficient, except that they are unprovided with an airing-yard. When female debtors are in confinement they are lodged in the infirmary. Debtors.

The keeper's salary is only 40*l.* a year, out of which he is required to pay 5*l.* as a pension to the widow of his predecessor. The matron (his wife) is nominally allowed 5*l.* per annum, of which she has received half a year's instalment; but as the Town Council will not ratify the promise of the magistrates in this particular, the matron has been called upon to refund the amount received, so that she is not allowed any remuneration for her services, which have in the last year been unusually arduous, she having had to attend no less than three women in their confinements, and having been also much occupied with another, who died after a sickness of two months. No rules for the management of this prison have ever received the sanction of the Secretary of State. General Observations.

BARNSTAPLE.—LOCK-UP HOUSE.

This building adjoins the prison, with reference to which it is most inconveniently placed, not only from overlooking the airing-yard, as described above, but also from having a door opening into one of the yards, which is a source of much insecurity; for, as the keeper of the lock-up house and his family use the yard for drying clothes, and fetch water from it, the traffic in and out of the prison is continual. It would be far better that this building should be added to the prison, and the lock-up house placed elsewhere.

It consists of two cells, 12 feet by 6 feet, and 10 feet high, each containing a barrack-bed on one side, with straw and rugs, but no other bedding. There are neither shutters nor glass to

the windows, and the cells, not being artificially warmed, are very damp and cold.

As far as it is possible to draw any conclusion from the confused returns received from this prison, the number of prisoners would seem to be greatly on the increase, the number for 1849 being stated to be 10 males and 12 females; and that for 1850, 27 males and 11 females, exclusive of two debtors in the latter year.

The expenditure in the year 1850 was 124*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*, comprised chiefly in the following items:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Diet	37	0	0
Fuel, light, and soap	5	0	0
Salaries	45	0	0
Repairs	17	0	0

In the same time the receipts have been as follows:—

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Prisoners' labour	7	6	6
Prisoners' maintenance and removal of convicts	29	0	5

BIDEFORD.—BOROUGH GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

It is impossible for any building to be less adapted for the purposes of a gaol than that of Bideford, which has been converted from a workhouse to its present application. The male prison consists of three cells, which are dark, damp, and dirty, opening into a passage, which is the only substitute for a day-room. The passage leads into a narrow slip of yard, scarcely exceeding four feet in width, into which, as I was assured by one of the prisoners, the sun only enters in the height of summer, and then for a quarter of an hour. In this place all the male prisoners in confinement spend their time without any supervision. The females are lodged on the floor above in three cells, which open into a sort of loft, used for the purpose of a chapel, and also by the female prisoners for exercise, there being no yard for that purpose except the one described. In this loft some planks have been put up, forming a room for any sick female prisoner, and three cells, also partitioned off, perfectly dark and unventilated, in which male prisoners are put to sleep when their numbers exceed that of the cells below; from these there would be no difficulty in their holding conversation with the women on the other side of the loft.

Prisoners on the day of Inspection.

The following list exhibits the prisoners in confinement on the day of inspection:—

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction at Bideford on the 30th of October, 1850.

Convicted Prisoners.

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions, or Summarily.	Sentence.
W. B.	21	Assault with intent, &c.	4 Mar. 1850	15 June, 1850	Sessions .	18 calendar months' hard labour.
C. L.	26	Stealing rope . . .	13 June ,,	15 ,, ,,	Ditto .	4 months' hard labr.
J. D.	15	,, lead	16 Sept. ,,	. .	Summarily .	3 ,, ,,
J. B.	24	Poaching	22 Oct. ,,	. .	Ditto .	2 ,, ,,

As an instance among many that might be adduced of the irregularity with which everything is done at this prison, and which has been already adverted to in the last Report, I may mention that the keeper was unable to produce any warrant or order of Court for the detention of the two prisoners last named.

At the time of my visit, the gaoler being absent, the keys were left with his wife, who was of course quite incompetent to prevent an escape, had such been attempted by the prisoners; and as the only door between them and the street stood open during my stay, it was only surprising that they did not avail themselves of the opportunity. That the gaoler should be obliged to neglect his duty in this manner will not be regarded as at all surprising, when it is considered that he receives only 10*l.* a year to remunerate him for his responsible trust, and must therefore find some other means of subsistence out of doors; but I am bound to point out the impropriety of maintaining this semblance of a prison, which does not in reality comply with any of those conditions required by the law under which the borough enjoys the privilege of Quarter Sessions.

The prisoners were dirty, as were also the wards and cells.

No change has been made in the diet described in the last Report, and the very objectionable practice still continues in operation of allowing the gaoler 4*d.* or 5*d.* a day for each prisoner, to reimburse him for the expense of their food, a system always likely to lead to injustice, and on that account almost universally abandoned. Diet.

No moral or religious instruction is given to the prisoners, however long their sojourn may be, except what they receive from the occasional gratuitous visits of a neighbouring clergyman. After noting this departure from the provisions of the Gaol Act, it is superfluous to add that the law requiring the appointment of a schoolmaster is also disregarded. When it is considered that some prisoners, like the first in the above list, remain in this demoralizing condition for nearly two years, No Chaplain.

the responsibility which attaches to such neglect must be allowed to be very serious.

The number of prisoners in the last year amounted to only 14, of whom, however, 9 were committed for trial at the Sessions, the other 5 having been committed summarily. Even this small number is greater by 10 than that of the prisoners committed in 1849.

The expenditure in the year amounted to 126*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, against which appears a set off of nearly 23*l.* received from the Treasury for the maintenance of convicted prisoners. The gaoler and his wife, forming the whole staff of the prison, receive only 10*l.* and 5*l.* for their services respectively. The cost of prison diet was 50*l.*; medicines and allowances to the sick, 10*l.*; rent, 20*l.*; removal of transports, 22*l.* 7*s.* The last item does not appear to have been reclaimed from the Treasury.

OAKHAMPTON.—TOWN PRISON AND LOCK-UP HOUSE.

This building is now used only as a lock-up house, for which even it is very ill adapted from its insecurity. In proof of this remark I may advert to the case of a prisoner who effected his escape through the ceiling about a year and a half ago, while confined on a charge of stealing a bullock. It consists of two rooms, one on the ground-floor and one above, the latter being approached by an outside staircase. These rooms constitute a building at the back of a small house used as the residence of the keeper. They are about 22 feet by 12 feet: the lower room is paved with lime-ash, and the upper boarded. The building, having been erected for other purposes, is very weak throughout, and, although the upper room has two doors, they are both so thin that little difficulty would be experienced by any strong man who should attempt to escape through them; and still greater facilities are offered by the ceiling and roof of the building, through which the man before adverted to effected his exit.

The building here described was formerly used as a gaol, the borough having Quarter Sessions and a Recorder; but prisoners for some years past have been sent to Exeter as soon as committed for trial, 7*s.* a week being paid for their maintenance.

Each room of the lock-up house contains two iron bedsteads and very good bedding; the lower, however, is seldom used on account of its dampness, except when prisoners of both sexes are in confinement at the same time.

Prisoners are fed by the keeper during their stay, 6*d.* per day being allowed for each prisoner by the parish.

No register of the commitments is kept.

TAVISTOCK.—LOCK-UP HOUSE AND POLICE-STATION.

This building is used for the residence of a superintendent and two policemen, and contains four day-cells and two sleeping-cells for prisoners, in a passage on the basement floor. The sleeping-rooms are placed in the front, and are well lighted; the day-cells at the back, and scarcely lighted at all. The former measure 9 feet by 7; the latter 7 feet by 5 feet 6 inches. The passage is divided by a door, so that, when prisoners of both sexes are in confinement, one sleeping-cell and two day-cells are devoted to either sex, by which a sufficient separation is maintained. As prisoners have occasionally been detained nine days on remands, the darkness of the day-cells is a great objection to them, which might easily be obviated by reversing their application. Each of the sleeping-rooms has a fixed bedstead, intended for two persons, and good bedding; and when a larger number are in confinement, other bedsteads are brought in, by which four or five are accommodated in each cell. Each of the day-cells is provided with a water-closet, the supply of water to which is regulated from the outside. There are no bells, or other means of communicating with the officers, in any of the cells. The cells are warmed by water-pipes throughout, and gas is supplied to the passages, but not to the cells. Independently of the advantage in point of light which would be gained by the alteration proposed above, prisoners would thereby be more completely divided at night, as the number of sleeping-cells would then be double that of the day-rooms, instead of the contrary, as at present.

In the year ending 1st October, 1850, the number of prisoners confined in the lock-up house was 82, of whom 18 were females. The longest period for which any one of these was confined was nine days, but 38 of the number were confined for periods ranging from two to nine days.

DARTMOUTH.—BOROUGH GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

A more notable instance of the entire disregard of the statute, which requires that boroughs having a grant of quarter-sessions should be provided with a proper prison, cannot be produced in the whole of the district, than that which is presented by the borough of Dartmouth. The truth of this assertion cannot be better illustrated than by the following description of this prison, extracted from my Fourteenth Report:—

"This prison, which ranks as a very inferior lock-up house, consists of two cells, nominally devoted to male and female prisoners, which are very damp and offensive. Each cell is furnished with a barrack-bed,

upon neither of which was there any bedding at the time of my inspection; but I was informed that there is sufficient bedding for them, kept at the house of the keeper, at a short distance from the prison. The cells are not glazed, neither is there in them any fireplace or other means of procuring warmth artificially. There are wooden shutters to the cells, which the prisoners are at liberty to close at their pleasure; thus procuring for themselves some protection from the cold, at the expense of light and ventilation.

"The locks of the two cells are opened by different keys; but as they are both kept by the gaoler, the Act of Parliament, which requires that female prisoners should be in the custody of a female officer, is virtually disregarded.

"The borough of Dartmouth having quarter-sessions, prisoners are sometimes detained in the cells above described for many weeks, and even for months, awaiting their trials. On one occasion, within the last few years, five male prisoners were so detained, who were afterwards sentenced to transportation. Prisoners for trial at the Assizes are removed, when fully committed, to Exeter county gaol; and those who have been convicted at the Dartmouth sessions and sentenced to imprisonment are also removed thither. The borough has a contract with the county for the maintenance of all their prisoners, at the rate of 9*d.* per day."

To these remarks it may be added, that, the prison being without any supervision by an officer on the spot, it would be perfectly easy for any person to supply a prisoner from without with spirits and other prohibited articles, and even with weapons of offence and instruments of escape.

The only changes that have been made since the above account was written have consisted in the substitution of a lime-ash floor for one of stone, and the removal of the keeper from a contiguous tenement to one in a distant part of the town.

Although prisoners are continually liable to be detained here for months before trial, and when sentenced to transportation for periods of unlimited duration until removed by order of the Secretary of State, no clergyman is engaged to perform the services of the Church, or to visit the prisoners; nor is any labour, employment, or instruction provided for them. The duties of the keeper are confined to the delivery to the prisoners of their food, which consists of 1 lb. of bread, 1 lb. of potatoes, and 2 oz. of bacon daily.

It is imperatively necessary that any further employment of this building, except for the purposes of a lock-up house, should be absolutely forbidden; and to fit it even for that application the cells should be warmed and ventilated, for at present no person can be confined in them for a single night without risk to health.

EXETER.—COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Since the publication of the last notice of this prison in the Fourteenth Report, the new buildings have been advancing rapidly towards completion. The central part of the building and the left wing are now inhabited by prisoners, no less than 211 cells having been certified for the separate form of discipline in those two divisions. In the present unfinished state of the prison, the discipline is of course liable to the irregularities and imperfections inseparable from a transitionary condition; but although this furnishes a ground for passing over this prison with a brief notice on the present occasion, it would not justify me in omitting to refer to the very excellent manner in which the improvements have hitherto been effected. No sooner have the magistrates of this county become satisfied of the superior advantages attending the separate system of prison discipline, than they have entered with the most praiseworthy energy upon the work of procuring the means for its complete adoption; and it may truly be said that no expense which can be reconciled with considerations of due economy has been spared to render the work adequate to the requirements of the county, and of the several boroughs that may be expected eventually to avail themselves of its advantages.

It is satisfactory to observe that a very large reduction has taken place in the last year in the number of commitments to these prisons, which, although it has mainly taken place in the class of summary convictions, has been also partaken in by that of prisoners committed for trial.

The total number of prisoners in confinement, in the two past years, has been as follows:—

	1849.	1850.	Reduction.
Gaol	1030	891	139
House of Correction . .	1586	1246	340
Totals . . .	2616	2137	479

The expenditure in the year 1850 was 4902*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* for the two prisons, and their joint receipts 1577*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* Of the latter sum there was received from the Government, for maintenance of prisoners and removal of transports, 1536*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.*

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

PETERBOROUGH.—LIBERTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

State of the buildings.

Very few alterations have been made in this prison since the publication of the Tenth Report, in which its construction is minutely described, and none with a view to remove the principal defects pointed out in that and the Thirteenth Report. The cells, although sufficiently spacious, and provided with nearly all the appliances suitable for the separate confinement of prisoners, have not yet been certified, as they are still devoid of proper ventilation, the only means of admitting air being, as before mentioned, a flue in the floor, which, while it fails to effect the desired object, is made the means of carrying on conversation between the inmates of the respective cells. The supply of water to the cells still comes directly from the main reservoir, without the intervention of small cisterns peculiar to each cell—an arrangement which leads to the inconvenience predicted before, of enabling a mischievous prisoner, without difficulty and with little chance of detection, to waste the whole supply of water intended for the general use.

It is much to be lamented that a prison which has been built upon so costly a scale, with a view of adopting in it separate confinement, should be incapable of being certified for that discipline from the want of conditions which could be so readily supplied; and that being unprovided with work-rooms or day-rooms (neither of which would have been necessary if the cells could have been certified), the prisoners confined in it are kept for a much longer period in their cells than can be reconciled with the provisions of statutes relating to solitary confinement.

Some of the minor defects pointed out in the Report referred to have indeed been remedied. The parts of the prison mentioned as insecure, and from which it was anticipated that escapes might be effected, have been strengthened by chevaux-de-frises; a convenient cookhouse has been fitted with steam-apparatus; the prisoners' dock in the adjoining courthouse has been rendered more secure; and an abundant supply of better water has been provided for the prison.

The vault in which it was intended to have placed a tread-mill has been partitioned off into five cells, which were in the course of construction at the time of my visit, and in each of which it is intended to place a labour-crank. These cells measure only 6 feet 4 inches by 4 feet 1 inch; and being, like the rest of the prison, destitute of artificial ventilation, will, in my opinion, be found too close to admit of that kind of labour being pursued in them without injury to the health of the prisoners,

unless the doors shall be left open, by which the prisoners in them would be enabled to communicate.

Nineteen prisoners were in confinement on the last day of inspection, the particulars of whose cases are shown in the Tables at the end of the Report. Prisoners on the day of Inspection.

There were no debtors in confinement, nor any criminal females. The greatest number of criminals in confinement at any one time, during the last year, was 38, 3 of whom were females; and the whole number of debtors in the year amounted to 3 males and 1 female.

No complaints of their treatment were made by any of the prisoners.

The wards, cells, and passages of the prison were very clean, as were also the persons of the prisoners. Cleanliness.

The clothing and bedding for the use of prisoners were clean and sufficient. Clothing and bedding.

The diet is that recommended by the Secretary of State, the only variation being the substitution of coffee for cocoa. It has not, however, been formally certified by the Secretary of State for the use of the prison. Potatoes sufficient for the use of the prisoners are grown within the walls. The articles of food were of good quality. They have hitherto not been bought by contract, but it was intended at the next sessions that contracts should be entered into for the supply of bread and meal. Diet.

The surgeon attends at the prison twice a week, and also examines prisoners on admission—their weight being registered at the time and on their discharge. The health of the prisoners was good at the time of my inspection, and very little sickness appeared to have prevailed since the last Report. Asiatic cholera, although prevalent in the neighbourhood, did not visit the prison. S. M., a male prisoner, was pardoned on account of insanity, in March, 1850. Health.

The chaplain reads prayers and gives a lecture every morning, after which he visits prisoners for half an hour. The chapel contains 35 compartments, the women being placed in front on one side. As all prisoners enter the chapel in front, the prisoners of both sexes can see each other on going in and coming out. There being no schoolmaster appointed, the prisoners receive no other instruction than that which can be given them by the governor, who receives 10*l.* a-year in consideration of that service. I need hardly observe upon the insufficiency of such a mode of instruction, as the governor in so small an establishment must have his time sufficiently occupied with his proper duties. Religious Instruction.

The punishments for prison offences, in the course of last year, were 119 in number, and were chiefly traceable to the defects in the construction of the prison, and of the discipline carried on in it, and of the want of proper supervision. The offences Punishments.

consist chiefly of talking through the flues (for which 31 prisoners were punished), defacing the property of the prison, wasting the water, laughing and talking, looking out of the window, and neglect of work. The ordinary punishment is privation of food.

Labour. No labour is practised in the prison except the picking of oakum, which is productive of no profit. A small quantity of stone only is broken for the prison walks.

Expenditure. The total expenditure during the past year amounted to 865*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, exclusive of 181*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* expended in repairs and alterations. The following are the principal items:—

	£.	s.	d.
Prison diet	260	9	2
Clothing and bedding	48	3	1
Fuel and light	109	3	10
Officers' salaries	221	5	0
Washing (paid to the matron)	52	3	3
Sundries	129	10	1

It does not appear why the washing should not here, as elsewhere, be done by the prisoners.

Debtors. The accommodation for debtors consists only of two sleeping-rooms, a day-room, and airing-yard for males. Female debtors, when any are in confinement, must be put in criminals' cells, and must use the airing-yard of criminal prisoners.

General Observations. No rules have yet been certified by the Secretary of State as fit to be enforced in the prison. I was informed that the clerk of the peace had been instructed in March last to communicate with the Home Office on this subject.

The discipline pursued in this prison cannot be expected to be productive of much moral advantage; and when viewed with reference to the health of the prisoners, must be regarded as likely to be detrimental, inasmuch as they are confined in close ill-ventilated cells during the whole day, except an hour given to exercise. The prisoners go to bed in summer at half-past six o'clock—in winter much earlier—and rise in the former season at six, in the latter at a later hour. No lights are burned in their cells, nor would it be advisable in the present state of ventilation that they should be, so that the hours of darkness can only be passed in sleep.

The visiting justices are regular in their attendance once a fortnight.

The reception cells are used as a lock-up house for disorderly prisoners from the town—a practice productive of much inconvenience, and which might be easily amended.

The following Table shows a very great increase in the number of commitments to this prison in the last year, as compared with the preceding:—

Total Number of Prisoners in Confinement in the course of the Years ending at Michaelmas, 1849 *and* 1850.

	1849.			1850.		
	Male.	Fem.	Total.	Male.	Fem.	Total.
CRIMINALS.						
1. In custody at the commencement of the year:—						
Prisoners for Trial	6	1	7	..	..	..
Convicted at Assizes and Sessions	7	2	9	..	..	..
Summarily convicted	6	..	6	..	..	..
2. Received under Commitments, and who have not been in the Custody of other Governors:—						
Prisoners for Trial	7	1	8	23	1	24
Rendered in Court for Trial	..	..	..	2	4	6
Summarily convicted	18	..	18	60	13	73
3. Committed for Examination, but afterwards Discharged, not being fully Committed	4	..	4	4	..	4
Total	48	4	52	89	18	107
DEBTORS.						
4. In custody at the commencement of the Year	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Admitted in the course of the Year	1	..	1	7	..	7
Total of Debtors and Criminals.	49	4	53	96	18	114
Lunatic Prisoners in the Year	..	..	..	1	..	1
Prisoners pardoned on Medical grounds	..	..	..	1	..	1
Greatest Number at any one time:—						
Criminal Prisoners	..	..	..	25	3	28
Debtors	..	..	..	2	..	2

The expenditure in the year ending at Michaelmas last has been 817*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, of which the following are the principal items:—

	£.	s.	d.
Salaries	257	13	0
Diet	124	2	7
Clothing and bedding	45	3	5
Fuel, light, and soap	95	11	2
Stationery and printing	18	0	0
Repairs	171	12	8
Sundries	87	9	2

The receipts in the same period have been 19*l.* 1*s.*, the Government having paid 13*l.* 4*s.* of that sum for the removal of transports, and the maintenance of convicted prisoners not having been claimed by the liberty.

The staff consists of the keeper, the matron, the chaplain, the surgeon, and two male turnkeys.

PRISONERS in the Gaol and House of Correction of Peterborough, on the 5th of June, 1850.

Convicted Prisoners.

Name.	Age.	Specific Nature of Offence.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Trial.	Whether sentenced by Assizes, Sessions or Summarily.	Sentence.
I. S.	29	Poaching	19 Sept. 1849		Summarily	9 months, with hard labour.
T. S.	25	Ditto	1 Feb. 1850		Ditto	8 months, ditto.
J. L.	51	Enticing a boy from his master, he being apprentice	11 May „		Ditto	1 month, ditto.
J. W.	20	Assault	25 „ „		Ditto	1*l.* 7*s.*, or 1 month.
D. P.	32	Poaching	29 Sept. 1849		Ditto	9 months, with hard labour.
R. G.	25	Assault	25 Jan. 1850		Ditto	1 month, or fine of 30*s.* He was not brought to prison until the 20th of May, time having been allowed to pay the fine.
W. H.	18	Leaving his master	11 May „		Ditto	6 weeks.
G. B.	22	Assault	25 „ „		Ditto	1*l.* 7*s.*, or 1 month.
J. B.	36	Stealing tools	1 Aug. 1849	18 Oct. 1849	Sessions	9 months, with hard labour.
J. G.	19	Embezzlement	19 Mar. 1850	11 April „	Ditto	3 „ „
S. W.	27	House-breaking	23 Nov. 1849	3 Jan. 1850	Ditto	12 „ „
J. B.	17	Assault	25 May 1850		Summarily	1*l.* 7*s.*, or 1 month.
C. N.	19	Malicious damage	22 Mar. „		Ditto	13*s.*, or 21 days, with hard labour (not brought in until the 28th of May).
T. W.	34	Poaching	10 Jan. „		Ditto	8 months, with hard labour.

Prisoners for Trial.

Name.	Age.	Specific Offence charged.	Date of Commitment.	Whether for Trial a Assizes or Sessions.
G. S.	32	Stealing a coat	18 May, 1850	Sessions.
W. L.	25	Rape	31 „ „	
W. R.	21	Ditto	„	
H. B.	18	Ditto	„	
G. H.	32	Stealing cloth	4 June „	Sessions.

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SIXTEENTH REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTORS

APPOINTED,

UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT 5 & 6 WILL. IV. c. 38,

TO VISIT THE DIFFERENT

PRISONS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

IV.—SCOTLAND.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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REPORT.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE GREY, BART., SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

Edinburgh, February 19, 1851.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to present to you the Sixteenth Report of the Inspector of Prisons for Scotland, being my Fouth Report since I was appointed to that district.

In the course of the past year I have visited all the prisons in the district, except a few of the smaller class in remote places, and I am happy to state that, with the exception of a few that are noticed in the separate Reports, I found them generally in exceeding good order, ably managed, and under the vigilant supervision of the different Local Boards.

The want of sufficient accommodation for the proper enforcement of discipline continued to be much felt in the large prisons, but in the greater part of the counties, the authorities had already taken measures to remedy the defect. At Dumfries a new prison is almost ready for reception; Durham, Glasgow, Paisley, and Forfar have each got extensive new wings in a very forward state. The Ayrshire Board have their plans approved for an extensive addition to the prison at Ayr, and for a new prison at Kilmarnock; Newcastle, Dumbarton, Linlithgow, and Clackmannan have each got their plans under consideration for additions or alterations; so that the only important prisons in which additional accommodation is wanting, and in which I have not heard that any actual measures were in progress for their amendment, are those of Edinburgh, Stirling, Haddington, and Perth county prison.

The confinements in the female prison at Edinburgh continue to be of the same objectionable character as

before reported, and will be found noticed in the separate Report on that prison.

I am happy to state that there has been a considerable diminution in the amount of crime in this district during the past year. The convictions in 1849 amounted to 19,209, and the committals to 25,953. Last year the former have only been 17,276 and the latter 25,352, thus showing a decrease of 1,933 in the number of convictions, and 601 in the number of committals. The decrease, I believe, may be chiefly ascribed to the healthy state of the manufacturing interests in this district—almost every mill having been in full employment, and the increased demand for factory hands has saved many from the last resort of idlers.

I regret, however, to observe that while the criminal list has diminished, there has been an alarming increase in the graver offences, as shown in the following table:—

	1849	1850
Committed for 1 year and under 2 years . .	547	475
,, 2 years ,, 3 ,, . .	20	8
Sentenced to transportation	340	525
Total . . .	907	1,008

In my last Report I brought under your notice the unsatisfactory manner in which the different rates of dietary seemed to be awarded to prisoners, and suggested the inexpediency of leaving the application of the diet at the discretionary power of the governors and keepers. The General Board, with a view of rendering its practical application more uniform, have since directed an altered scale of diet to be tried experimentally in some of the principal prisons, and which, if found to answer, will be adopted generally. Page 39.

In the same Report, I also suggested that the crank-machine, the employment of which had been found so beneficial in the county gaol at Leicester, might with Page 8, Introductory Letter.

advantage be introduced into the prisons of Scotland, as a system of penal labour, and the General Board have since directed a small number of them to be tried experimentally in the different large-class prisons.

They have been but a short time in operation, but I have seen enough to satisfy me that they will prove an admirable deterring employment.

I have heard the cranks complained of because their application was not turned to profitable account; but no prison labour can be so productive as that which expels a culprit from prison. Experience shows that there is no hope of reclaiming a professional thief, unless by making it his interest to become honest, and therefore no argument will persuade him to abandon a prison life while the diet is tolerable, and the labour light. Exclusive useful employments for all classes of prisoners has hitherto been the error of the system in this district; the crank will in some degree supply what was wanted for the employment of certain classes of offenders, whose minds, hardened by vice or idleness, are no longer open to milder influences, and therefore though its application will not directly contribute to swell the annual report of prison earnings, its workings will, I expect, be shown more satisfactorily in the reduced number of recommitments, and having fewer prisoners to maintain.

I have several times visited the general prison at Perth, and found every department in the most satisfactory state; indeed it could not well be otherwise, with the time and attention devoted to it by the individual members of the General Board, who undertake the monthly visits, for their experience enables them to detect defects, and from time to time to suggest amendments; and while the management may therefore be pronounced faultless, according to the present recognised rules for regulating prison discipline, it is to be regretted that the class of prisoners sent there should be of such a hopeless character.

I sometimes find the members of Local Boards contrasting unfavourably with their own prisons the number of recommittals from the general prison, as

if it were a defect in the system pursued there—but this is a fallacy. The local prisons have all got their short sentences together, with classes of persons committed for a first offence, and a large proportion of the whole who are not altogether hopeless; but in the general prison, it may be said, there are none such, for the greater part of the adult prisoners sent there have previously run a long career in crime. They have had their minds and their constitutions already worn threadbare by vitiated habits and long previous confinements; they are as incapable of making their way in the social world as they are unfit to be received in it; in short, their connexion with it may be said to have been eternally severed before they reached the general prison, and let the discipline be what it may, a prison is the only home that most of them are capable of looking to.

While such appears to be the helpless condition of the mass of the adult prisoners confined there, I have much satisfaction in reporting that the juvenile class have in some measure been rescued from a similar fate by the system of relaxation which you were pleased to order on my recommendation in 1847. They have now been upwards of a year in the occupation of the separate wing which had been prepared for their reception. The average daily number in the class has been 42.

It is generally believed that about nine-tenths of our criminal population are not strictly sound in intellect, and my own observation does not permit me to doubt it; while the hope of weaning such minds from a career of crime is not therefore very encouraging, the attempt must nevertheless in no case be abandoned, although it is only among the youthful class that we can with any confidence look for success. The system under which they are managed in the General Prison is by a certain amount of relaxation to preserve the health and intellects which God has given to them, unimpaired, to endeavour to instil into them a just sense of their moral and religious duties, and by combining useful labour with such an amount of penal discipline as the laws and

rules permit, endeavour to make them feel that a life of honest industry is preferable to a prison. That many of them are brought to that conclusion I have no reason to doubt, but their future depends on the chances which await them on leaving the prison, and the care that may be taken to keep them in the right path, should they have the good fortune to find it.

The General Board take much interest in the success of the class; and the opinions on its working, taken from the Visiting Directors, and quoted in their Twelfth Report, are to the effect, that "a great improvement has taken place in the health and strength "of the juvenile prisoners—that their progress in education has been much more rapid and decided—and "that their general conduct has been much more satisfactory than formerly." As therefore, the expediency of forming this class, as well as the propriety of the system adopted for its management, can no longer be doubted, I feel it due to Mr. Stuart, the governor, and Dr. Malcolm, the surgeon, to notice the zealous interest they have taken in it from the commencement, and the Governor is efficiently assisted by Mr. Stewart, the present superintendent of the class, and Mr. Smith, the teacher. I felt it also due to the warder, James Finlayson, to bring the zeal and ability evinced by him in the management of the class while in its experimental state, under the favourable notice of the Board.

For the usual statistical information, I beg to refer you to the Twelfth Report of the General Board of Directors of Prisons in Scotland, and at the same time to record my acknowledgement of the uniform kind co-operation and assistance which I continue to receive from all those in authority throughout the district.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your very obedient humble Servant,

JOHN KINCAID,
Inspector of Prisons.

IV.—SCOTLAND.

ABERDEENSHIRE.

ABERDEEN PRISON.

[Inspected August 27, 1850.]

PRESENT in confinement :—

East Prison . .	15	male criminals.
,, . .	33	female ditto.
,, . .	4	male debtors.
Total . . .	52	
West Prison . .	57	male criminals.
General Total .	109	

The only complaint made was by a prisoner named G. G., who stated that he had been sentenced to nine months' imprisonment, and having already been confined six months, he had not been allowed to learn a trade; but I found, on inquiry, that his conduct had been so very bad that he could not be intrusted with the tools necessary for such purpose.

The daily average numbers in confinement during the past year amounted to 122, being 16 more than in the year previous.

The prison buildings were in good repair, and the several wards, as well as the personal appearance of the prisoners, satisfactory.

The general health in the prison appears to have been very good; two male convicts died of complaints caught prior to admission, and one female prisoner of apoplexy in childbirth, but there had been no epidemic or other prevailing disease. Dr. Williamson, the surgeon of the East Prison, died since last inspection; and Dr. Reid, who for 18 years had been surgeon of the West Prison, has been appointed his successor.

There has been no alteration in the chaplain's duties. At the period of my last Report, the Rev. W. D. Strachan, who had succeeded to another situation, was continuing in the temporary charge until the appointment of his successor, which has since been made by the transfer of the Rev. Daniel Baxter from the county

Scotland. — Aberdeen Prison.

prison at Perth, who, I have no doubt, will discharge his important duties at Aberdeen with no less satisfaction to that County Board than he did at the one he had just left.

Every due attention seems to be given in the instruction of the prisoners, and their learning progresses very satisfactorily.

The governor reports that, although there had been some reckless doings on the part of prisoners sentenced to transportation, the general conduct had been good. There had been a great many minor punishments, chiefly incurred by juveniles, who had been found communicating with each other in adjoining cells.

There was a singular case of a female convict jumping into the boiling water which was preparing for her bath, in the hope of rendering herself unfit for transportation to which she had been sentenced; her attempt, however, proved abortive, and she had, with other convicts, been removed to Millbank.

The only alteration in the prison buildings since last inspection is, that all the cell-doors in the West Prison had been altered to make them open inwards instead of outwards as formerly, by which more room has been obtained in the corridor, and conversations among the prisoners without detection are rendered more difficult.

Aberdeen being one of the prisons directed by the General Board to try the working of the crank-machine as an experiment on certain classes of prisoners, the governor remarks, in his Report for the quarter ending December last, that—

A crank-machine was fitted up at the West Prison and set in operation on the 4th December: from the irksome and monotonous nature of the employment it appears well calculated to render a prison not so desirable as hitherto.

A serious attempt at escape was made on the 26th May last by an untried prisoner named James Kerr, who, when the warder opened the cell-door to hand in his supper, threw a handful of dust in the warder's eyes, sprang out and seized him by the throat; and had not a convict (who, in the scuffle, the warder contrived to liberate from his cell) fortunately taken the warder's part instead of aiding the other prisoner, there seems to be no reason to doubt that they might have possessed themselves of the keys and made their escape, with as many others as they chose to liberate.

After the desperate assault made on the warders of the West Prison the year before, it seems strange that a single warder should since have been intrusted with the serving of the suppers, and the locking up of the male prisoners in the east wing, with the main-gate keys in his possession! An additional warder has since been appointed; but I consider such practice to be very unsafe even with two, and that if there is no third officer, male or female outside, who can be intrusted with the keys while the foregoing duties are going on, one of the two warders ought to remain outside the gate.

Scotland.

Aberdeen Prison.

I was much surprised at another practice I found going on here; observing a quantity of bread in the cell of a female prisoner, I inquired for what purpose it was allowed to accumulate, and was told that certain classes of them made it a rule to save as much bread as they could avoid eating for the purpose of having it to take out with them on their discharge; and with that view the governor told me they never consumed the last delivered loaf, but the one that had been longest in their keeping.

On expressing my surprise that it should be permitted, the governor said, that as by the rules they were entitled to a certain quantity of bread daily, he conceived (and as I understood him to say) the County Board concurred, that the prisoners had a right to do with it what they liked. I told him I could give no orders on the subject, but that I wished the County Board to be informed that I considered the practice very objectionable.

I presume it has now been discontinued, for, in reply to a letter I lately wrote to inquire about it, the governor states, that—

> No prisoner under sentence for 10 days has got an additional supply of bread until she has finished the former supply, and consequently none has been taken out of the prison.

This latter practice, however, I beg to observe, is not less objectionable than the other, for undoubtedly each prisoner is entitled to a daily allowance of fresh bread, and the delivery ought not to be delayed until the previous supply has been consumed; whatever has been left ought to be taken away at the time the fresh delivery is made.

The following were the employments of the prisoners on the day of inspection:—

	Males.	Females.
Weaving	5	0
Winding weft	2	0
Shoemaking	4	0
Tailoring	2	0
Shirtmaking	0	9
Knitting stockings	0	19
Making mats	1	0
Picking oakum	44	0
Cooking and washing	1	3
Sick	1	0
Untried prisoners who decline to work	2	0
,, under examination	3	0
Prisoners under sentence for periods not exceeding 10 days	7	2
Total	72	33

The provisions continue to be supplied by contract, and the work for the prisoners provided by the governor, as formerly, at the cheapest market, who settles his account annually with the

Scotland. Aberdeen Prison.

clerk of the Prison Board, the accounts having been previously examined by the professional accountant.

	£.	s.	d.
Average cost of prison diet per head . .	4	1	1
Average amount of earnings	2	16	7
Net cost per head after deducting earnings .	13	2	2

Since last inspection two detector-clocks have been fitted up at the West Prison at opposite ends of the building, by which it is ascertained in the morning whether the watchman has made his rounds according to order during the night.

The general appearance of both prisons in every department was highly creditable to the management of the keeper and the matron, Mr. and Miss Chalmers.

Since the foregoing Report was written, I have been favoured with a digest on the state of crime in Aberdeenshire during the year 1850, prepared by the governor, of which the following is an extract:—

"On referring to my Report for 1849, it will be found that the criminal committals during that year exceeded those of 1848 to the extent of 30 per cent.; but, for the present year there has been a decrease, as appears from—

TABLE II.

Female Criminals committed in 1849 . . .	402	
,, ,, 1850 . . .	326	
Decrease	——	76 = 18·9 per cent.
Male Criminals committed in 1850	617	
,, ,, 1849	609	
Increase	——	8 = 1·3 ,,
Decrease		68 = 6·7 ,,

"It will be observed, that the decrease has taken place solely amongst the females, the number of committals of that sex having fallen down to the average of the years 1847 and 1848. The increase in 1849 was, no doubt, in a great measure caused by the excitement arising from the improvement of trade, and the consequent abundance of money after several years of severe privation; but a re-action seems this year to have occurred, and the numbers have been gradually decreasing, as appears from—

TABLE III.—FEMALES Committed to the Prison of Aberdeen.

	Years.		Decrease in 1850
	1849	1850	
For Quarter ending 31st March . .	76	70	6
,, 30th June . .	91	78	13
,, 30th September.	121	86	35
,, 31st December .	100	68	32

"It may also be remarked, that the decrease has principally taken place amongst the class of females usually committed for breaches of the peace while in a state of intoxication, the numbers sent to prison for that offence during 1849 having been 181, while in 1850 there were only 114; decrease 67.

TABLE IV.—AGES of Criminal Prisoners Committed during the Year.

	12 Years and under.	13, 14, and 15.	16 and 17.	18, 19, and 20.	21 Years and upwards.	Total.
Males	14	39	36	77	451	617
Females	8	16	24	37	241	326
Total	22	55	60	114	692	943
Committals in 1849 .	16	53	72	135	735	1,011
Increase in 1850.	6	2	..	..	..	..
Decrease ,, .	..	..	12	21	43	68

"In my last Report I expressed the hope, that the efforts making to increase the number of industrial schools, and to render them more efficient, would ere long prove successful in overtaking all our neglected juveniles, and preventing them from becoming inmates of our prisons. Looking, however, at the above table, which shows that the only class of prisoners of which there has been an increase of committals during the year is the juvenile class, one would naturally infer that such hope is not likely to be realised. But the inference would not be correct, for on examining into the committals it will be found that the increase has not taken place at the Aberdeen prison, but at the prisons in the country (where, I believe, there are no industrial schools); no less than eight children, not exceeding 12 years of age, having, in 1850, been committed to these prisons, whilst in 1849 only one such prisoner was committed to one of them.

"The following table shows the number of new and old offenders received into the prisons during the year:—

TABLE V.

	There were Committed for								
	1st time.	2nd time.	3rd time	4th time.	5th time.	6th time.	7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th times.	11th time and upwards	Total.
Males	382	89	43	25	18	18	32	10	617
Females	110	51	38	27	25	15	35	25	326
Total	492	140	81	52	43	33	67	35	943
Total in 1849 . .	526	135	82	85	54	36	69	24	1,011
Decrease in 1850 .	34	..	1	33	11	3	2	..	68
Increase ,, .	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	11	..

"Although there has been a decrease of the number of committals for

Scotland.
Aberdeen Prison.

the first time, still it is rather alarming to find that nearly 500 individuals have been added to our criminal population during the year; and although many of them will not in all probability be found again within the walls of a prison, yet a large proportion, having once passed the rubicon, will undoubtedly return. The frequent re-commitments of old offenders, shown in the above table, plainly and unmistakeably evince, that the present system of prison discipline has not a deterring influence on criminals.

"That a change in the mode of treating criminals is necessary is now generally admitted, and a movement to that effect has lately been made by the introduction of crank-machines into the principal prisons, which, from the irksome and monotonous nature of the employment, appear to me likely to have a salutary effect upon those persons who, from their idle and dissipated habits, are found constantly lounging about the streets, and time after time getting into prison for assaults and breaches of the peace. When these characters find that labour at the crank (with which ought to be combined spare diet, for as a prisoner once remarked to me 'there is nothing like pinching the belly to make a fellow behave') is to be their portion in prison, I have no doubt that their visits there will not be so frequent as hitherto.

TABLE VI.—State of Education of Criminal Prisoners.

	Could Read.			Could Write.			Superior Education.
	None.	A little.	Well.	None.	A little.	Well.	
Males	128	286	198	262	322	28	5
Females	77	186	63	241	82	3	..
Total	205	472	261	503	404	31	5
Centesimal proportion	21·8	50·	27·7	53·3	42·9	3·3	·5
Ditto for 1849	22·	47·4	30·4	53·1	43·6	3·1	·2
Ditto for all the Prisons in Scotland for 1849	20·9	40·3	38·8	51·9	32·8	15·3	1·4

TABLE VII.—Residence of Criminal Prisoners.

	Numbers who have passed the greater part of their Life in						Total.
	Town of Aberdeen.	County of Aberdeen.	Other parts of Scotland.	England.	Ireland.	Abroad.	
Males	244	131	165	14	43	20	617
Females	222	47	47	2	8	..	326
Total	466	178	212	16	51	20	943
Centesimal proportion	49·4	18·9	22·5	1·7	5·4	2·1	100
Ditto for 1849	54·3	16·8	18·8	3·	4·4	2·7	100

ABERDEEN POLICE CELLS.

[Inspected August 27, 1850.]

Aberdeen Police Cells.

I found three of the cells occupied by the night charges of the preceding night; but the whole of them looked clean and well-kept.

HUNTLY PRISON.

[Inspected August 31, 1850.]

Huntly Prison.

There were no prisoners in confinement. The last who had been there was discharged on the 16th instant. The number in confinement during the year was 35.

The prison buildings were in good order, and the wards, the clothing, and the bedding, looked clean and neatly kept.

The health here has been good, no cases of sickness having been recorded since 1849. No surgeon has yet been appointed, but one is called in when wanted.

The Rev. — Walker is kind enough to visit the prison occasionally, gratuitously.

There had been only one punishment during the year, that of a prisoner having a pipe in his possession and refusing to tell where he got it.

All prisoners admitted here are placed on the first-class diet, which is purchased by the keeper who charges exactly what it costs. The accounts are settled annually.

The entries in the County Board's Inspection Book are numerous, and the remarks creditable to the keeper.

ARGYLESHIRE.

INVERARY PRISON.

[Inspected September 27, 1850.]

Inverary Prison.

Present in confinement:—

15 male criminals,
3 female ,,
1 civil prisoner.

Total . 19

They made no complaints requiring notice.

The average number of prisoners during the year has been 15, being 5 less than last year.

The prison buildings appeared to be in good repair, the wards clean, as also the appearance of the prisoners.

The health in this prison seems to have been remarkably good, and the surgeon's duties regularly attended to.

The chaplain's duties appear to have been regularly and efficiently carried out, and he seems quite satisfied with the educa-

Scotland. — Inverary Prison.

tional progress made by the prisoners under the instruction of the keeper and the matron.

The keeper reports, that the general conduct has been good; the punishments reported are neither numerous nor serious in their nature.

On visiting the prison-yard, I observed a new wooden building attached to the south wall of the prison, which, on inquiry, I found was intended to accommodate an additional cow belonging to the keeper, who has already one cow lodged in another part of the prison yard. But I conceive that one cow is as many as ought to be admitted within the grounds there, and as the new building alluded to is in an objectionable place, with its sloping roof close to one of the cell windows, I recommend that it be removed.

The chief employments are net-making, picking oakum, and sewing.

	£.	s.	d.
The average cost of prison diet per head . .	4	9	3¾
Average amount of earnings	2	1	0¼
Net cost per head after deducting earnings .	18	3	3

The clothing and bedding, and the general appearance of the prison, were clean, and creditable to the keeper and the matron.

Loch-gilphead.

LOCHGILPHEAD.

[Inspected September 28, 1850.]

This is a new small prison very well situated, and opened on the 21st May last. There has since been admitted only nine prisoners. It contains four cells, each about 12 feet by 6 feet in width, and 8 feet high, a water-closet, and a room for the keeper, but no store-room or other accommodation of any kind.

The cell windows face the arm of the sea, and the half of each cell adjoining the window looks very damp; but on inquiry, I found that the inhabitants are accustomed to such dampness in almost every house, and that they do not consider it detrimental to the health of the inmates; nor has it hitherto appeared to affect the health of the prisoners, for they have only had one case of sickness, which the individual brought in with him.

It appears that the surgeon does not visit the prison unless when there are persons in confinement.

The cells, the clothing, and the bedding, were clean.

The keeper states, that he purchases the diet and charges what it costs.

This prison, at the time of my visit, was only legalized for 10-day confinements; but it has since, at the request of the County Board, been extended to confinements of 30 days.

The keeper seems well qualified for his duties.

AYRSHIRE.

AYR PRISON.

[Inspected July 18 and 19, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

67 male criminals.
21 female criminals.
5 male civil prisoners.

Total . . 93

They made no complaints.

The average daily number during the year has been 99, being five more than in 1849.

The prison buildings appear to be in good order, but in the same crowded and unsatisfactory state as formerly reported. I am glad, however, to state that, after much delay, the plans for an extensive addition to the prison have at length been approved, and may be expected to be proceeded with early in spring.

Notwithstanding the crowded state of the prison, the general health of the prisoners continues to be remarkably good, for though there have been two deaths in the course of the year, they were the result of diseases caught prior to confinement. The surgeon's duties continue to be regularly and efficiently performed by Dr. Whiteside.

The chaplain's duties appear also to have been very regularly and zealously attended to by the Rev. W. Russell. In one of his quarterly reports, remarking on the necessity of resorting to some other mode of dealing with juvenile offenders, he states—

It would tend greatly, in my humble opinion, to the decrease of crime, if the Prussian, or compulsatory system of education, were established in this country. The prison, which is a place of punishment, should never be converted into a schoolhouse; the great object to be achieved in the present day is the prevention of crime, not reformation from it. Let the child first be educated and trained up to take its share in the great business of life, should he fall into some petty crime, through evil counsel or inadvertence, let him be chastised by the magistrate as a father would chastise his child or a schoolmaster his pupil, and let the prison be reserved for indomitable transgressors.

The teacher spends three hours daily, on week days, in the instruction of the prisoners, and one hour on Sundays, with very satisfactory results. The library is tolerably well supplied, and the books much in request by the prisoners, though they cannot be well preserved while each cell contains a plurality of inmates.

The governor reports that the general conduct of the prisoners has been good, though the punishments have been numerous for petty offences, provoked by the crowded state of the prison.

The chief employments here are—

Weaving.	Picking oakum.
Net and mat-making.	Sewing, &c.

Scotland. Ayr Prison.

The diet is furnished by contract; the clothing, bedding, and other stores are purchased at the cheapest and best market, and the accounts are settled quarterly.

	£.	s.	d.
Average cost of prison diet per head . .	3	12	4
Average amount of earnings	5	1	0
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	7	4	1

The unusually moderate net cost of this prison is the lowest of the prisons in Scotland, and highly creditable to the management of the governor.

The governor reports that he has every reason to be satisfied with the zeal and ability of his subordinate officers.

I found every department in the best order that circumstances permitted, and reflecting great credit on the governor and matron, Mr. and Mrs. M'Kissock, as did also the remarks in the County Board's Inspection-book.

Cumnock Prison.

CUMNOCK PRISON.

[Visited August 6, 1850.]

There were no prisoners in confinement. The number confined during the year was 104.

The prison buildings were in good repair, and the cells, clothing, and bedding clean and creditable to the keeper.

Kilmarnock Prison.

KILMARNOCK PRISON.

[Inspected August 6, 1850.]

Present in confinement :—

	12 males.
	5 females.
Total . .	17

They made no complaints.

The average daily number during the past year has been 11.

On the day of my visit 17 prisoners were confined in six cells, two of them having four prisoners in each, which is much too large a number for such cells, as they are very badly ventilated; I would, therefore, recommend that any excess of numbers above two in a cell should invariably be sent to Ayr Prison.

I am glad to find that the plans have at length been approved for the building of a new prison at Kilmarnock, to be commenced early in spring; for the present building, which was only intended for police purposes, is unfit as well as unsafe, to be continued as a prison longer than necessity requires.

The health of the prisoners seems to have been good, and the surgeon's visits regular.

Scotland.

Kilmarnock Prison.

There is no chaplain, but the parish minister, the Rev. D. F. Thompson, is kind enough to visit sometimes, gratuitously.

Owing to the crowded state of the prison, the punishments for petty prison offences have been numerous.

There had been one attempt at escape.

The provisions and stores are purchased at the best and cheapest market, and the clothing and bedding supplied from Ayr.

The keeper, Mr. Geddes, appears a very intelligent, active officer.

BANFFSHIRE.

BANFF PRISON.

Banff Prison.

[Inspected August 31, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

	3 male criminals.
	4 female criminals.
	1 male civil prisoner.
Total . .	8

They made no complaints.

The average daily number in confinement during the year was 11, being two more than in 1849.

The prison buildings appeared to be in good order, and I was satisfied with the cleanly appearance of the wards and of the prisoners.

The general health appears to have been remarkably good. A new surgeon was appointed in May last, who seems to be very regular in the discharge of his duties.

There had been no change in the duties of chaplain and teacher, which continue to be efficiently performed by the Rev. J. M. Milne.

The keeper reports that the general conduct of the prisoners has been good. The punishments recorded are few, and their character trifling.

The chief employments here are—

Shoemaking.	Stone-breaking.
Matmaking.	Picking oakum, &c.
Tailoring.	

The cooking continues to be furnished by contract outside the prison, as formerly reported, and the diet supplied at a given price per head; the keeper reported, that at the time of my visit the contract price was 6*d*. Though this arrangement may be the least troublesome mode of providing the supplies, I continue to think it not the most economical, and it will be observed, that the average cost of dietary here continues to be considerably above the

Banff Prison.

same class of prisons, and is, in fact, among the highest in the Scotch district.

The keeper continues to settle his accounts as formerly reported.

	£.	s.	d.
Average cost of prison diet per head . .	6	0	2⁹
Average amount of earnings	3	1	2⁹
Net cost, per head, after deducting earnings .	19	0	10²

The cleanliness of the prison in all its departments was creditable to the keeper and the matron, Mr. and Mrs. Lyon.

Keith Prison.

KEITH PRISON.

[Inspected August 31, 1850.]

There had been no prisoners since April. The number in confinement during the year was 19.

The building was in good repair; and the wards, clothing, bedding, &c., clean and neatly kept.

The keeper had been instructed to get the windows altered as recommended in my Report of last year, but said he had received no orders regarding the water-closet.

The health had been good, and the surgeon visits regularly twice a-week, whether there are prisoners or not.

The prison is not visited by any clergyman, and there are no books of any kind for the use of the prisoners. I recommend that a few Bibles and Testaments be supplied.

The general conduct was reported to have been good.

All the prisoners admitted here are placed on the second-class diet, to supply which the keeper is allowed 6*d.* a-day for each prisoner. This is contrary to the 16th rule for the government of the prisons of Scotland, which expressly states, that "no officer shall have any interest in the supply of the food," &c.

I observed that the visits of the members of the County Board are all entered in the Prisoners' Visiting Book. I beg to recommend that a separate book be kept for that purpose.

Cullen Prison.

CULLEN PRISON.

[Inspected September 1, 1850.]

There were no prisoners in confinement. The number admitted during the year was 7.

The cells appeared to be very damp, although the weather was dry. It appears to me that this might be amended, at a trifling cost, by a small drain near the walls, and a spout to carry the rain-water from the roof, instead of its being allowed to lodge close to the prison walls as at present.

The general appearance of the interior arrangements were much more satisfactory than on my former visit.

The prisoners are dieted the same as at Keith; and the same objections apply to the practice here as noticed in my separate Report on that prison.

BERWICKSHIRE.

GREENLAW PRISON.

[Inspected October 12, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

18 male criminals, including 1 lunatic.
5 female criminals, including 1 lunatic.
1 male civil prisoner.

Total . . 24

They made no complaints.

The average daily number during the past year was 24, being 1 more than in 1849.

The prison buildings were in good order, and the wards, as well as the personal appearance of the prisoners, clean.

The cells were offensively close and badly warmed at the time of my visit.

The late surgeon died since last inspection, and another had been appointed. He states that the general health in the prison has been good; but he conceives that the effluvia arising from the stove in the corridor is prejudicial to health.

He complains, and with good reason, of the practice of keeping lunatics, who are not prisoners, occasionally for long periods in this prison, greatly to the detriment of its discipline, as also to the health of the unfortunate lunatic.

The chaplain's duties seem to have been zealously performed.

A teacher attends four times a-week, devoting two hours each time in instructing the prisoners in their different cells.

The keeper states, that the general conduct has been good; and, though the punishments recorded are rather numerous, they are chiefly for trifling offences, provoked by the state of the prison.

A male prisoner named Barnard Flin committed suicide on the 24th November. It is supposed that the withdrawal of the indictments against two companions in crime, who had been committed with him, had preyed on his mind, and led to the fatal act. No blame seems attached to the officers of the prison.

The airing-yards still continue in the same insecure state as formerly reported; and I have not heard that any notice has been

Scotland. Greenlaw Prison.

taken of the letter which I mentioned in my last Report I had written to the clerk of the County Board, suggesting a plan for the better security of the prisoners while airing.

The chief employments continue to be—

Sand-beating,	Sewing,
Net-making,	Shoe-making,
Mat-making,	Teasing oakum, &c.

The provisions are furnished by contract, and the clothing and bedding purchased.

The keeper states, that he settles his accounts annually with the clerk of the Board at Dunse; but the settlement is not noted in any cash-book kept in the prison, which I recommend to be done.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The average cost of prison diet, per head * .	6	9	8½
Average amount of earnings. . . .	0	10	5
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	21	6	5½

The keeper, Mr. Johnston, seems zealous in the discharge of his duties, and is assisted by his son; but the latter receives no pay unless there are 25 prisoners in custody.

The matron was ill and in bed at the time of my visit; her duties were attended to by her daughter.

Dunse Prison

DUNSE PRISON.

[Inspected October 12, 1850.]

There had been no prisoners in confinement for the last three weeks. The number during the year was 56.

The prison building is in good order; and the cells, as well as the clothing and bedding, are clean and neatly kept.

Gas has been introduced into the prison since last inspection.

The keeper, who is also a district constable, was absent conveying a prisoner to Greenlaw at the time of my visit. As I stated in my 14th Report, I conceive this duty to be inconsistent with that of the keeper of a small prison.

The only books shown to me as being in use, were—one of the old criminal registers, an old register of sickness, and a new book, in which the parish minister, who is kind enough to visit the prison gratuitously, inserts his visits.

The matron stated that her husband, the keeper, is allowed 1½*d.* per meal to diet the prisoners, which is contrary to the provisions of the 16th rule for the government of the prisons of Scotland.

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* The average cost of the diet is, with one exception, the highest in the prisons of Scotland, and seems deserving the consideration of the County Board.

BUTESHIRE.

Scotland.

ROTHESAY PRISON.

Rothesay Prison.

[Inspected September 26, 1850.]

There was only 1 male prisoner in confinement, and he made no complaint.

The number in confinement during the year was 54.

The prison buildings appeared in good repair; the wards clean and well kept.

The health in the prison has been good. The surgeon visits regularly once a-week, and oftener when required.

The chaplain, the Rev. J. G. Schooler, had been appointed three months before, and had been very regular in his attendance.

The general conduct of the prisoners has been good.

The chief employment is teasing cotton waste.

The keeper states, that the supplies are purchased, and the accounts settled, quarterly, with the clerk of the Board; but that he, the keeper, keeps no accounts. He merely collects them from the tradesmen, and hands them over to the clerk of the Board.

The general appearance of the prison, the clothing, bedding, &c., were creditable to the keeper and the matron, Mr. and Mrs. Roy, who seem to be well qualified for their duties.

CLACKMANNANSHIRE.

ALLOA PRISON.

Alloa Prison.

[Inspected October 3, 1850.]

Present in confinement—

16 male criminals.
5 female criminals.
3 male civil prisoners.

Total . . 24

They made no complaints.

The average daily number in confinement during the year has been 26, being 6 more than last year.

There had been no alterations in the prison buildings since last inspection, and the prisoners confined there continue in the same unsatisfactory state as formerly reported.

The chaplain remarks, in his April Report, that there had been a large increase in the number of female prisoners, and that, "whether young or old,—whether offenders for the first time or ripe in crime,—are forced into one, or at the most into two cells; and the evil effects of this it is not possible to calculate."

I am glad, however, to find that plans for a suitable addition to the prison accommodation are in course of preparation.

Scotland.

Alloa Prison.

The health, notwithstanding its crowded state, has been very good; and the surgeon's visits have been regularly performed.

The chaplain had resigned a short time prior to my visit; and no successor had then been appointed. Two young clergymen, however, were kind enough to attend alternately to the spiritual wants of the prisoners on Sundays.

The general conduct throughout the year appears to have been but indifferent; the defective state of the prison provoking disorders which required punishment.

The dietary is furnished by contract, and the clothing and bedding purchased at the cheapest and best market. The keeper states, that the accounts are settled monthly; but the settlement is not noted by the clerk of the Board in any cash-book kept in the prison, which I recommend should be done.

The principal employments here are teazing oakum and picking wool.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Average cost of prison diet, per head* . .	6	9	1^{6}
Average amount of earnings . . .	1	1	8^{9}
Net cost per head after deducting earnings .	15	9	7^{9}

The general appearance of the prison, as well as the clothing and bedding, was clean and creditable to the keeper and matron, Mr. and Mrs. Ure.

DUMBARTONSHIRE.

Dumbarton Prison.

DUMBARTON PRISON.

[Inspected August 17, 1850.]

Present in confinement—

17 male criminals.
7 female criminals.

Total . . 24

They made no complaints.

The average daily number during the year has been 29, being one more than in 1849.

There had been no alteration in the prison buildings since last inspection, but I observe, in a subsequent report, that the flooring of the airing-yard has been renewed, as I had recommended.

The general health has been good, and the duties continue to be regularly and efficiently discharged by Dr. Buchanan, the surgeon of the prison.

There has been no alteration in the chaplain's duties, which

* The average cost of the dietary is, with two exceptions, the highest in the prisons of Scotland, and seems deserving the consideration of the County Board.

continue to be most efficiently performed by the Rev. Andrew Gray, whose quarterly reports convey much useful information, and in which he acknowledges the zealous co-operation he receives from the officers of the prison. He expressed himself well satisfied with the progress made by the prisoners in their instruction. The library appears to be much in request, but the books are not in good order.

The keeper reports that the general conduct had been good.

The chief employments are—

Weaving,
Net-making, and
Oakum-picking.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Average cost of prison diet per head . .	4	8	6
Average amount of earnings . . .	2	1	3
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	10	15	7

The want of sufficient prison accommodation, as formerly reported, is much felt here. The females continue to occupy adjoining cells with the males in the same galleries; and when I state that, during the March quarter, there were at one time 29 male and 13 female prisoners so lodged in the small number of cells which the prison contains, it will readily be believed that the purposes of imprisonment must have been very imperfectly carried out.

The warder, as before reported, is obliged to continue the same objectionable practice of warming himself in cold weather in the debtors' room, and cooking his meals at their fire.

There were but four visits recorded in the County Board's Inspection-book; but the remarks were creditable to the governor and the matron, Mr. and Miss Macfarlane; as also was the result of my observations.

DUMFRIESSHIRE.

DUMFRIES PRISON.

[Inspected May 2 and 6, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

35 males.
9 females.

Total . . 44

There were no complaints requiring notice.

The new prison, mentioned in my last Report as having just been commenced, is now nearly completed, and will soon be ready for occupation.

Scotland.

Dumfries Prison.

The whole of the prisoners, male and female, have been crowded, during the past year, in the building formerly occupied by the male prisoners; but I found it in as good order as, under the circumstances, could be expected.

The average daily number in confinement has been 47, being 1 more than in 1849.

The general health has been good. A new surgeon was appointed in July last, who seems regular and zealous in the discharge of his duties.

The chaplain, Mr. Cowans, continues also to be very regular in attending to his duties. There is no Sunday service at present; nor can much be done in the way of instruction while the prison remains in its present state.

The general conduct of the prisoners appears to have been as good as, under circumstances, could have been expected.

The principal employments are—

Picking wool, teazing hair, matmaking, &c.

The provisions and stores are not at present provided by contract, but purchased at the market price by the clerk of the County Board and the governor, and they are paid for at the time by the former. The governor keeps no accounts except for the prison labour, which he settles with the clerk of the Board once a-year.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Average cost of prison diet per head . .	4	17	5^{9}
Average amount of earnings	1	15	8^{8}
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	11	4	9^{6}

Two new male warders and a night watchman have been appointed since last inspection, and the governor reports favourably of their qualifications.

I continue to entertain a favourable opinion of the zeal and ability of Mr. and Miss Kidd, the governor and matron.

EDINBURGHSHIRE.

Edinburgh Prison.

EDINBURGH PRISON.

[Inspected September 24 and 25, and October 1, 1850.]

On the first day of inspection there were present in confinement,—

282	male criminals.
303	female ditto
12	male civil prisoners.
Total . .	597

The average number in confinement during the past year was 576, being a decrease of 60 as compared with 1849. The total

commitments during the year was 4,863, being 1,030 less than in 1849.

The prison buildings were in good repair, and the different cells and wards, as well as the general appearance of the prisoners, clean and satisfactory.

The following was the distribution of the prisoners with regard to cells on the day of inspection:—

DISTRIBUTION.	MALES.		Females.	Total.
	East Prison.	West Prison.		
Separate	89	43	27	159
In Cells with two	..	122	202	324
,, more than two	..	..	69	69
In Class-rooms	..	33	..	33
Total	89	198	298	585

(12 Civil prisoners = 597.)

Though the numbers in confinement were unusually low, yet it will be seen by the foregoing table that additional prison accommodation is much wanted, for with 585 criminals in confinement, they were only enabled to have 159 in single cells, and when so many are thus necessarily associated (two together in many of the cells), under no constant supervision, the termination of such imprisonments will ever be found to lead to the increase, instead of the repression, of crime.

In visiting the two first cells in the female prison, I heard the whisper going the round of the prison:—"The Inspector is here, now for complaints." The consequence was, that in almost every second cell I was required to listen to some long, frivolous complaint, chiefly on the subject of diet; and in the other cells in which no complaint was made, I saw that I was only indebted to their silence because they had not had time to concoct a grievance.

In my Fifteenth Report I felt it necessary to request your special attention to the objectionable condition of the female prison here, and as no change has taken place, nor has it come to my knowledge that any measure is in progress for its improvement, although the attention of the local authorities had been called to it by the General Board, it becomes my painful duty to bring the subject again under your special notice.

In my previous Report I showed, on the authority of Mr. Smith, the governor, that about 800 females were annually committed to the prison of Edinburgh for the first time. Among such a vast number of annual first committals it is impossible to doubt that there must be many young women of hopeful characters

Scotland. Edinburgh Prison.

who are yet young in crime; many others now find themselves in prison the victims of misfortune rather than of vice; and who would be glad, were it possible, to pass their sentences in separation in the hope of being able to find their way back to their homes unnoticed, to profit by the experience of the past; but the female prison of Edinburgh appears to me to afford no such chance.

It is a prison the defects of which require to be seen to be understood; for there are no cells in it that come under the head of separate cells properly so called, as being in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The 48 front cells of the prison are virtually but one cell, for they are all open in front, with iron railings, looking into a common centre; and with two or more prisoners in each. I have always found these 48 cells occupied by upwards of a hundred females, generally conversing freely from cell to cell, and scarcely under the restraint of good order; so that be they good or be they bad, there they are—a hundred female prisoners all mingled in one common cauldron of contamination, under no discipline, washed, fed, and clothed at the expense of the community; the attendance of respectable female officers at all times at their service, as is also the daily advice of an eminent physician, and all the while, as far as I can judge, such imprisonments are leading to the benefit of no party but the keepers of brothels and other dens of infamy.

Such are the chief features of the confinements in the female prison of Edinburgh, and such they have continued to be ever since I came into office in 1847.

The two punishment cells mentioned in my last Report have been completed.

There is still no chapel.

There were a few complaints made to me on the male side, but none deserving notice.

The general health in the prison is reported to have been good, and though there had been six deaths in the course of the year, there had been no epidemic or other prevailing disease. The surgeon's duties continue to be efficiently and zealously performed by Dr. Simson.

The following table shows the comparative weight of prisoners sentenced to 60 days and upwards for the two quarters ending April, 1850 :—

1850	Number Committed	Average Weight on Committal	Average Weight on Liberation.	Number who lost in Weight.	Number who gained Weight.	Average Gain.
Quarter ending March	247	128	129	81	166	1
,, Sept.	66	129	129½	23	43	½

There has been no alteration in the chaplain's duties, which

continue to be regularly and zealously performed by the Rev. George Hislop, who continues occasionally in his quarterly reports to remark on "the utter inefficiency of the central division (female) as a place of either detention or instruction." A remark which he has repeated from time to time ever since I came into office.

The progress in instruction made under the teachers on the male side seems to be very satisfactory, and the library books are extensively used.

The governor reports that the general conduct of the prisoners had been good on the male side, but that of the females only middling. I observed nothing in the record of punishments requiring notice.

The following were the employments on the day of inspection:—

EMPLOYMENT.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Winding and weaving. . .	2	..	2
Shoemaking	4	..	4
Tailoring	2	..	2
Netmaking.	26	..	26
Carpentry	2	..	2
Teazing oakum, hair, &c. . .	160	120	280
Sewing	5	104	109
Cooking and baking . . .	..	3	3
Washing and cleaning . .	11	19	30
Miscellaneous	52	21	73
Matmaking	17	..	17
Smiths	3	..	3
Knitting	..	30	30
Sick in hospital	3	1	4
Total. . . .	287	298	585

The provisions here are all supplied by contract, as are also the materials for clothing, &c., which is made up in the prison, and the accounts are settled quarterly.

	£.	s.	d.
Average cost of prison diet per head . .	3	0	10^{6}
Average amount of earnings	1	17	1
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	9	18	6

I feel it due to Mr. Smith, the governor, to remark that the average cost of the prison dietary during the past year under his management is the lowest in Scotland.

Six crank-machines had been directed by the General Board, to be tried experimentally in this prison, but though they are in course of preparation, they were not ready for use at the time of my last visit.

The officers who reside within the prison are permitted by the

Scotland. Edinburgh Prison.

County Board to have their washing done by prisoners, which is contrary to the spirit of the 17th Rule for Prisons in Scotland.

The governor states that he has reason to be satisfied generally with the efficiency of his subordinate officers, among which few changes have taken place. Two of them had left for other situations, and one from bad health.

Every department, the clothing, bedding, &c., appeared in the best possible order, and I have great pleasure in repeating my former observations, that the management of this important prison is most zealously and efficiently carried out by the governor, Mr. Smith; and that the matron, Miss Aitkin, manages her department in the most satisfactory manner that could be expected under the disadvantageous circumstances in which she is placed.

Since the foregoing was written, I have received from Mr. Smith the following tables relating to juvenile crime.

RETURN of JUVENILES, under 14 years of age, Committed to the Prison of Edinburgh, in the four years ending December 24, 1850.

Dates.	Total Commitments.	Centesimal Proportion under 14 Years of Age.
1847	4,734	5·6
1848	5,536	3·7
1849	5,709	2·9
1850	4,865	1·3

I may also mention that there has been a considerable decrease in the commitments of prisoners from 14 to 16 years of age, which was to be expected, if ragged schools answered their intended purpose.

The number of prisoners between 14 and 16 years of age committed to the Edinburgh prison during the last three years was—

Year.	Numbers.
1848 . . .	552
1849 . . .	440
1850 . . .	361

Edinburgh Lock-up Prison.

EDINBURGH LOCK-UP PRISON.

[Inspected September 20, 1850.]

There were three female prisoners in confinement who had only been locked up in the course of the past night.

There has been no alteration since last inspection. The cells were clean, but offensively close.

The general health seems to have been good, and there has been no change in the duties of either surgeon or chaplain.

EDINBURGH POLICE CELLS.

[Inspected February 13, 1851.]

The arrangements for police purposes in this extensive new building are of a very respectable class. They contain five large rooms, four rooms with fire-places for the accommodation of sick persons. A surgery, a male and a female turnkey's room, 34 good cells, with a bath-room, and other conveniences on the underground floor.

The greater part of the cells had been newly whitewashed, and looked very clean; while the others were undergoing the same operation.

The two rooms on the first-floor, called protection rooms, were the one occupied by seven male prisoners, and the other by six females. The atmosphere in both was most offensive and unwholesome; neither the heating nor the ventilating apparatus are found to act in these cells, I am informed, and though they are each fitted with fine large windows capable of admitting a plentiful supply of fresh air, they are so fixed that they can only open to a very small extent, and scarcely admit any air at all.

The large rooms on the floor above, I am told, are equally ill-ventilated, and it is probable that in the construction of the building the air channels had got choked up with rubbish, and the contractor had not taken the trouble to clear them when the building was completed. Be that as it may, it is essentially necessary that the ventilation of these cells should be looked to, for the two protection cells are often required to accommodate 12 or 18 persons of a night, and it is impossible to imagine anything so unwholesome as the state of their atmosphere when only occupied by half the number.

The surgeon seems very zealous in the discharge of his duties, visiting their cells twice every day.

MUSSELBURGH PRISON.

[Inspected April 4, 1850.]

Present in confinement—4 males and 2 females.

They made no complaints.

The number of prisoners confined here during the year has been 136.

The prison buildings were in good order, and no alterations had been made since last inspection.

This prison is annexed to the Court House, and the ground-floor portion of it was used as a coal-cellar, and other purposes, by the keeper. In April last, a proposition was made by the County Board, that one of the ground-floor apartments should be converted into a police cell; and having, at the request of the General Board, inspected the prison, with a view of ascertaining how far it might be expedient to permit it to be used for such

Scotland

Musselburgh Prison.

purpose, the following is an extract from the letter which I addressed to them on that subject, viz., that "I saw no objection to the room in question being appropriated to the purpose proposed, provided that the entrance to it is partitioned off, so as to allow the keeper to have the use of the coal-cellar, and other conveniences adjoining."

In the same communication I suggested other conveniences which were much wanted, and which I hope on my next visit to find have been adopted.

The health seems to have been good, and the surgeon's visits regular.

The minister of the parish is kind enough to visit occasionally, gratuitously. There are no books supplied for the use of the prison. I recommend that some Bibles and Testaments be allowed.

The provisions here are supplied by contract, and the accounts settled quarterly. The clothing is supplied from the head-quarter prison of the county at Edinburgh.

The keeper and the matron have been a long time in charge of this prison, and seem to discharge their duties very zealously.

ELGINSHIRE.

Elgin Prison.

ELGIN PRISON.

[Inspected September 4, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

	5 males.
	3 females and 1 child.
Total . .	8

They made no complaints.

The average daily number during the year was 10, being 2 more than in 1849.

The prison buildings were in good order, and the personal appearance of the prisoners, as well as the different wards, were clean.

There had been very little sickness during the year, and the surgeon appeared to have been very regular in the discharge of his duties.

A teacher attends and gives instruction to the prisoners in their separate cells, on an average, about five hours each week, and their progress under him seems satisfactory. The prison library is found of great use, and the books are reported to be well taken care of. There has been no change in the chaplain's duties, which continue to be regularly performed by the Rev. P. J. Mackie.

The general conduct of the prisoners has been good, and the punishments few.

The chief employments are—

Teazing hair and wool.	Mat-making.
Picking oakum.	Knitting, sewing, &c.

The provisions are furnished by contract, and the clothing and bedding purchased. The accounts are settled annually, and the settlement noted in the keeper's cash-book.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Average cost of prison diet per head	4	8	10
Average amount of earnings	4	4	10^{8}
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings . .	25	8	5

The appearance of the prison in every department was highly creditable to the management of the keeper and matron, Mr. and Mrs. Rutledge.

FORRES PRISON.

[Inspected September 4, 1850.]

There were no prisoners in confinement.

This is a small new prison, forming a portion of the buildings attached to the Court House. It has been legalised for the confinement of convicted prisoners only, for periods not exceeding 10 days. It was opened on the 23rd May last, and only one prisoner had been committed up to the time of my visit.

It contains 3 cells, each 12 feet 7 inches in length by 7 feet 7 inches broad, and 7 feet high; and a bath-room the same size as the cells.

The wards were clean, but the prison had as yet been but partially provided with its necessary requirements. There were only two sets of bedding, and no clothing, except two very indifferent sets that had been in use in the old gaol.

An old register was the only book in the prison, but I hope a regular set will, ere this, have been furnished.

The keeper is allowed 4*d.* a-day for dieting each prisoner. This practice is open to the same objection that I have made in my separate Report on the prison at Keith.

FIFESHIRE.

CUPAR PRISON.

[Inspected July 26, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

32 male criminals.
8 female ditto.
3 civil prisoners.

Total . . 43

They made no complaints.

Scotland. Cupar Prison.

The average number in custody during the past year was 59, being 12 less than in 1849.

The prison buildings were in excellent order, and the wards clean, as well as the personal appearance of the prisoners.

The general health appears, upon the whole, to have been good. There has been no epidemic or other prevailing disease; and the surgeon's duties seem to have been regularly carried out by Dr. Grace, the surgeon of the prison.

There had been an attempt at suicide on the part of a debtor, but the governor fortunately happened to be on the spot at the moment, and succeeded in staunching the blood until the arrival of a surgeon. The act was not attended with fatal consequences.

The joint duties of chaplain and teacher continue to be efficiently carried out by the Rev. Alexander Heron, whose Quarterly Reports convey much useful information.

The governor reports that the general conduct has been good, and I observed that the punishments recorded were comparatively few, and trifling in import.

The objectionable and unsafe practice of airing in the prison grounds, a portion of male as well as females at the same time, continues as previously reported; but the County Board, with that spirit of liberality which has marked all their proceedings since I have had the honour of being officially connected with them, have agreed to provide a suitable number of airing-yards, the plans of which have been submitted to and approved by the General Board, and I have reason to expect are now in the course of erection.

The males and females continue to be lodged in the same open galleries, to the great annoyance of the female officers, who are in consequence frequently exposed to very revolting exhibitions. The position of the matron is also a subject of annoyance and misunderstanding between her and the governor; for being lodged within the prison-gates, she cannot receive a friend or relative as a visitor to her apartment without a breach of prison rules; and the alternative is still more disagreeable, that of going out to receive them in the open air in all weathers.

I hope that at no distant period my recommendation will be adopted,—that of providing a small separate prison for the females,—which would make the Prison of Cupar, under its usual efficient management, one of the best prisons in Scotland.

The chief employments here are—

Weaving.	Teasing ropes.
Flax-dressing.	Sewing, &c.

The provisions are furnished by contract, and all other stores are purchased at the cheapest and best market. The keeper settles his accounts monthly with the clerk of the Prison Board, producing his vouchers.

	£.	s.	d.
Average cost of prison diet per head	4	0	4
Average amount of earnings	4	14	7
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings . .	7	4	3

The net cost per head, after deducting earnings, is next lowest to Ayr, and reflects much credit on the management of Mr. Cook, the governor, as does also the general appearance of every department of the prison.

The female department continues also to be very ably conducted by Miss Webster.

DUNFERMLINE PRISON.

[Inspected September 22, 1850.]

Present in confinement :—

11 male criminals.
3 female ditto.

Total . 14

They made no complaints.

The average daily number in confinement during the year was 14, being 10 less than in 1849.

The prison buildings were in excellent repair, and the wards, as well as the personal appearance of the prisoners, clean. The prison grounds have been much improved since my last visit.

The general health of the prisoners has been good, and the surgeon's duties are now regularly attended to.

The Rev. George Barlas, whose appointment I noticed in last Report, has continued to discharge the duties of chaplain and teacher with zeal and ability.

The keeper reports that the general conduct had been good.

The usual employments here are—

Weaving, mat-making, teasing oakum, &c.

	£.	s.	d.
Average cost of prison diet per head . . .	4	3	2
Average amount of earnings	4	11	0
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	15	14	11

The general appearance of every department of the prison was creditable to the keeper and the matron, Mr. and Mrs. Gillespie.

FORFARSHIRE.

FORFAR PRISON.

[Inspected September 13, 1850.]

There were in confinement only 3 male and 2 female prisoners, who made no complaints.

Scotland.
Forfar Prison.

The whole establishment was in such confusion, with extensive additions being made to the prison, that I thought it unnecessary to enter into a regular inspection at that time.

The average daily number in confinement during the year was 17, being 3 less than in 1849.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Average cost of prison diet per head . . .	4	15	8^{9}
Average amount of earnings	4	16	8^{6}
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	15	9	0^{6}

Dundee Prison.

DUNDEE PRISON.

[Inspected August 13 and 14, 1850.]

Present in confinement :—

105 male criminals.
88 female ditto.
4 male civil prisoners.

Total . 197

They made no complaints entitled to notice.

The average daily number in confinement during the year was 201, being 1 less than in 1849.

The prison buildings were in good order, the different wards well kept, and the personal appearance of the prisoners cleanly.

The general health in the prison has been good, and the duties of the surgeon regularly discharged.

There has been no change in the chaplain's duties, which have been performed during the last year by the Rev. Thomas Stirling.

The governor reports that the general conduct has been good; and I observe that though a good many punishments have been recorded, they were not of a very serious character.

This is one of the prisons in which the General Board had directed that the working of the crank-machines should be tried experimentally; and the governor, in his Quarterly Report for December, states that 4 of them had been in operation, and he is of opinion that they will prove very useful in deterring old offenders, and in compelling idlers in the prison to perform their tasks at industrious labour more cheerfully and profitably.

The prisoners appear to make very satisfactory progress in their learning under the instruction of Mr. Lindsay, the teacher.

The governor states that the library consists of upwards of 600 books, and that the daily average number in use is about 250. A considerable number of them, however, are not well kept, the Bibles and New Testaments, in the female prison especially, are much mutilated and nearly unfit for use.

The number of prisoners in separate confinement on the day of inspection were 75 males and 17 females.

	Males.	Females.
Number confined 2 in a cell . . .	30	62
,, 3 in a cell . . .	0	9

It is thus seen that additional prison accommodation is much wanted here.

The following shows the employment of the prisoners on the day of inspection:—

	Male Crim.		Fem. Crim.
Weaving	24	Sewing	34
Teasing	49	Knitting	17
Shoemaking . . .	3	Teasing	14
Tailoring	1	Cleaners	3
Watch cleaning . .	1	Mending	3
Rope cutting . . .	3	Shoebinding . . .	2
Cleaners	4	Washing	6
Gardening	2	Cooking	2
Winders	10	Idle	7
Bookbinding . . .	1		
Idle	7	Total . .	88
Total . .	105		

I examined the provisions, which were all of the best quality. They, as well as the clothing, are furnished by contract, and the accounts settled monthly. The general expenditure is regularly audited once a year.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Average cost of prison diet per head . .	3	9	11½
Average amount of earnings	2	16	4
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings.	8	7	5

It is due to the management of Mr. Mathieson, the governor, to remark, that the cost of the prison dietary here during the past year is among the lowest in Scotland.

There is no classification of debtors, the different apartments and cells alloted to them being common alike to all.

I was much surprised, on examining the prison register of commitments, to observe, that a child, named J. S., only 10 years of age, was committed for 2 days, on the 18th March last, for an *assault*.

The governor expresses himself generally satisfied with the zeal and ability of the different warders, and I have great pleasure in repeating my former observations on the general appearance of every department of the prison, and the very efficient manner in which it is managed by Mr. Mathieson. I continue also to be well satisfied with the manner in which the matron's duties are conducted by Mrs. Anderson.

Scotland.
Montrose Prison.

MONTROSE PRISON.

[Inspected September 13, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

16 male criminals.
5 female ditto.

Total . . 21

They made no complaints.

The average daily number in confinement during the year was 25, being 5 more than in 1849.

The prison buildings were in good repair, and the only alteration in the interior arrangements was the erection of a boiler in the kitchen.

The general health had been remarkably good, and the surgeon's duties regularly attended to.

The duties of the chaplain continue to be most efficiently discharged by the Rev. John Edwards, who, in his Quarterly Reports, gives very deserved praise to the officers of the prison for the zeal and ability with which the prison rules are carried out.

The keeper reports that the general conduct had been good, and I found that the punishments recorded were few in number and trifling in character.

I was much disappointed to find, notwithstanding my repeated representations in previous Reports on the necessity of this prison having an additional officer, the keeper was still left to labour alone (aided only by his wife), with sometimes as many as 38 prisoners to manage. I am glad, however, to find, by his Quarterly Report for December last, that the long withheld assistant had been yielded at last, and that a warder had been appointed on the 19th of October, who, he states, "is giving me every satisfaction, and I find him to be of great service."

The principal employments here are—

Mat-making.	Oakum-teasing.
Shoe-making.	Knitting, &c.

The keeper states that all prisoners, on admission, are placed on the second-class diet.

The provisions are supplied by contract, and the clothing and other supplies are purchased at the cheapest market. The accounts are settled monthly, but the settlement is not noted in any cash-book in the prison, which I recommend should be done.

	£.	s.	d.
Average cost of prison diet per head . .	4	8	8
Average amount of earnings	3	2	5
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	12	8	6

Every department of the prison was in excellent order, and reflected great credit on Mr. and Mrs. Smith, the keeper and the matron.

ARBROATH PRISON.

[Inspected September 16, 1850.]

Present in confinement :—

3 male criminals.	
1 female ditto.	
Total . .	4

They made no complaints.

The average daily number in confinement during the year was eight, being three less than in 1849.

The prison buildings were in good repair, but one of the cells a little damp.

The general health has been good, for the several cases of sickness, had all been contracted prior to admission. The surgeon's duties are regularly discharged.

The chaplain's duties are also regularly attended to by the Rev. Joseph Hay, whose Quarterly Reports contain a good deal of useful information.

The general conduct of the prisoners has been good, and no punishments recorded since the keeper's appointment, about three months ago.

The wall of the backyard is in a very insecure state, and two prisoners succeeded in consequence in making their escape, the one on the 9th of January, 1850, and the other on the 28th of February following. The insecure state of the prison wall was held, in some degree, to excuse the oversight of the keeper for the first escape; but as the second took place under circumstances very nearly similar, it was considered that, not having taken any precautions to guard against a repetition of such an event, the keeper was an unsafe person to be continued longer in charge of the prison, and he was therefore discharged.

The principal occupations are—

Oakum-picking.	Winding and balling
Sewing.	twine.

None of the supplies are by contract, but all purchased by the keeper. He was absent at the time of my visit, but his wife, the matron, informed me that he settles his accounts quarterly with the clerk of the Board; I did not, however, find the settlement noted by the clerk's signature in any cash-book kept in the prison, which I recommend should be done.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Average cost of prison diet per head . .	4	17	1
Average amount of earnings	2	4	11
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	22	15	5

Scotland.

Brechin Prison.

BRECHIN PRISON.

[Inspected September 13, 1850.]

There were four prisoners in confinement. They made no complaints.

The number admitted during the year was 28.

The prison building was in good repair, and the cells clean, but badly warmed.

The only alteration since last inspection was the introduction of a loom into one of the cells for the prisoners' use.

The general health seems to have been good, and the surgeon visits regularly once a week.

There had been no clerical visitors during the two last quarters.

The keeper states that the general conduct has been good.

The provisions here are all purchased, and the accounts settled half-yearly.

All prisoners are placed on the second-rate diet.

Everything appeared in a satisfactory state.

HADDINGTONSHIRE.

Haddington Prison.

HADDINGTON PRISON.

[Inspected February 14, 1851.]

Present in confinement :—

29 male criminals.
7 female ditto.
1 male civil prisoner.

Total . . 37

They made no complaints.

The average daily number in confinement during the past year was 28, being seven less than in 1849.

The prison buildings were in good repair, and the personal appearance of the prisoners clean, as well as the different wards and cells.

The general health has been good, but the surgeon visits only once a week, which is not according to the rule laid down for prisons of this class; he is reported, however, to be very attentive in coming at all other times when required.

Dr. Cook discharges the duties of chaplain and teacher. He devotes an hour each week-day, and the same on Sundays, to prayer, reading a portion of Scripture and explaining it, and visiting the cells, but there is no regular Church service on Sundays.

The library is well supplied with books, but the keeper states that those of an amusing character are much more sought after than the religious. I would suggest whether prisoners under short sentences should not be restricted to books that convey religious instruction only.

Scotland.

Haddington Prison.

The keeper reports that the general conduct had been good. The punishments recorded in the Punishment-book are not numerous nor of a serious character.

The chief employments are—

Making bee-hives, basket-making, and sewing.

The clothing, bedding, and bread are supplied by contract; the other supplies are purchased by the keeper at the best market, and the accounts settled quarterly. The settlement is noted by the clerk of the County Board in the prison cash-book.

	£.	s.	d.
Average cost of prison diet per head . .	4	5	2^{6}
Average amount of earnings . . .	3	13	8
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	10	5	5

The visits of the members of the County Board are numerous and complimentary to the management.

This appears to me to be one of the neatest, and under its present management, might be one of the best prisons in Scotland, but the want of necessary accommodation, in a great measure, stultifies the exertions of the officers, and reduces it to the character of an ordinary place of detention, for where it is necessary to have five prisoners in one room under no constant supervision, as was the case on the day of my visit, it is not difficult to predict the result of their imprisonments.

The average daily number in confinement has been less in the past than during the previous year, but the prison has not on that account been relieved, for, as the Quarterly Returns show, the lowest number in confinement has only descended to 20 during one quarter, while the highest range has never been less than 41 during all the four quarters; I, therefore, feel justified in repeating my former report, that the present accommodation is needed for male prisoners alone, and that separate provision ought to be made for the females.

I visited the kitchen at the dinner-hour, and saw the prison cooking and washing going on at the same time, and the open prison bath, in the same small apartment with the cooking and washing!

The prison grounds are beautifully kept, and I continue to entertain a high opinion of the zeal and ability of the keeper and the matron, Mr. and Mrs. Beattie, as also of their son, the warder.

Dunbar Prison.

DUNBAR PRISON.

[Inspected February 14, 1851.]

There were no prisoners in confinement.

The number admitted during the year was 118, and the offences for which they were committed chiefly rioting and drunkenness.

Scotland.

Dunbar Prison.

This prison is only legalized for 10-day confinements, but I observed that a female, named Elizabeth Leckie, or Lumsden, with a child, was committed on the 4th of January, for a fine of 1*l.*, or 15 days' imprisonment, and that she was kept in confinement there during the whole of the 15 days.

The clothing and bedding are supplied from the county prison at Haddington, and the diet and other necessary articles purchased by the keeper, and charged at what they cost. The accounts are settled quarterly, but the settlement is not entered in any book, nor is there an account or cash-book kept in the prison. the only books there being a criminal register, daily statement book, and the surgeon's visiting book.

The general health has been good, and the surgeon visits regularly once a-week whether there are prisoners or not.

There is no chaplain attached to this prison, nor is there any clerical visitor.

There are no books for the use of the prisoners. I would recommend a small supply of Bibles and Testaments.

The keeper and his wife seem to be very correct in the discharge of their duties.

INVERNESS-SHIRE.

Inverness Prison.

INVERNESS PRISON.

[Inspected September 5, 1850.]

Present in confinement :—

31 male criminals.
18 female ditto.
1 male civil prisoner.

Total . . 50

They made no complaints.

The average daily number in custody during the past year was 35, being 7 more than in 1849.

The prison buildings were in excellent order, and the cells and wards clean, as was also the personal appearance of the prisoners.

The suggestions made in my last Report had been very generally adopted. The corridor windows had been made to open, and the openings in some of the cell windows had been enlarged. A canvass screen had been fitted to draw across the open space of the corridor, between the first and upper galleries, so as to prevent the males and females from seeing each other at those particular periods of the day when it could not fail to be offensive to individuals, as well as detrimental to prison discipline when left open.

A want of sufficient prison accommodation has been felt during the past year, as they frequently had occasion to put two or more

prisoners into one cell; but the governor states that, in doing so, he attended as much as possible to the classification of those who were placed together, by separating the juveniles from the adults, and first offences from the more hardened.

The general health appears to have been very good, and the surgeon's duties regularly performed by Dr. Fraser.

The Rev. H. Mackenzie appears also to have carried out the duties of chaplain very zealously: his week-day visits generally extending to an hour and a half, employed in imparting religious and moral instruction, and exhorting prisoners, and in prayer; as also in ascertaining, from time to time their progress under the teacher, with which he expresses himself well satisfied. His Sunday visits extend to about an hour and three quarters, in performing divine service in English as well as in Gaelic.

He states that the library is generally in great request, and the books well taken care of.

The governor reports that the general conduct of the prisoners has been good, and, on referring to the Register of Punishments, I found nothing requiring observation.

The matron had been dismissed a short time prior to my visit, and Miss Kerr, a sister of the governor, had been appointed in her place.

In a subsequent Report I find that a female convict made her escape through the neglect of the warder, in leaving the cell-doors and the corridor-gate open, for which she had been dismissed. Some blame, too, seems to have attached to the governor and the gate-porter for not taking due precautions to guard against prisoners in the yard getting over the boundary wall.

The following table shows the employments on the day of inspection:—

	Males.	Females.
Weaving	5	0
Netmaking	2	0
Shoemaking	4	0
Tailoring	1	0
Engraving	1	0
Matmaking	6	0
Teazing hair and wool and picking oakum	8	0
Occupied at the prison grounds	1	0
Untried, not working	2	0
Unable to work from infirmity	1	0
Sewing	0	2
Knitting	0	10
Winding	0	3
Cooking, washing, &c.	0	3
Total	31	18

The provisions are furnished by contract; and the clothing and other stores purchased at the cheapest market. The accounts

Scotland.
Inverness Prison.

are settled quarterly, and the settlement noted in the cash-book. The governor states that he makes the rate of diet dependent on the length of confinement, conduct, and work done by the prisoners.

	£.	s.	d.
Average cost of prison diet per head	4	14	11
Average amount of earnings	8	12	2
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings	13	6	0

I observed, in the Criminal Register, the committal of several boys of tender years for the first time,—some of their offences at the instigation of profligate parents,—others the result of early neglect and want. Three of them, I observed, aged respectively 11, 10, and 9 years, have all been re-committed, with a fair presumption that they will become criminals for life. Had the law permitted their first offences to be differently dealt with, it is probable that the results would have proved more satisfactory.

Some irregularity seems to have occurred, in 1848, by which a female prisoner was retained in confinement beyond the period of her sentence, but which had only recently been brought under the notice of the Board. On the matter being investigated, it was found that, though resulting from an oversight on the part of the governor, it occurred under circumstances quite excusable.

The governor, Mr. Kerr, seems very zealous and well qualified for his important charge; and the general appearance of every part of the prison was very creditable to his management.

Two crank-machines had been fitted up in December last; but they had been such a short time in use that the governor declined giving an opinion on the working.

KINCARDINESHIRE.

Stonehaven Prison.

STONEHAVEN PRISON.

[Inspected September 12, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

10 males
4 females

Total . . 14

One male prisoner complained of his having been committed on a charge of begging, which he affirmed was a false charge, as he had only gone into a farmhouse, with something he had to offer for sale, and was asked if he was hungry, which he did not affect to deny; and that was construed into an offence, for which he was committed.

The average daily number in confinement during the year was 11, being 2 less than in 1849.

Scotland.

Stonehaven Prison.

The health in the prison seems to have been remarkably good, and the surgeon's duties regularly performed.

There has been no alteration in the chaplain's duties. He reports that the prison library is much in request, and the books well taken care of.

The keeper reports, that the general conduct of the prisoners has been good; only one punishment is recorded since last inspection.

The usual employments here are—

Picking oakum and hair.	Mat-making.
Making wire chains.	Knitting and sewing.

All the supplies here are purchased at the best and cheapest market, and the accounts settled annually.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Average cost of prison diet per head . . .	4	2	3
Average amount of earnings	1	0	7^{6}
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	19	7	3^{3}

The general appearance of the prison, the clothing and bedding, &c., was very creditable to the keeper and the matron, Mr. and Mrs. Robertson.

KINROSS-SHIRE.

Kinross Prison.

KINROSS PRISON.

[Inspected September 20, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

1 male civil prisoner.
1 female criminal.

Total . . 2

The male prisoner complained of the stained glass window in the debtors' apartment, which prevented his getting a view of the country; but as he was seated over a comfortable fire, in a well-sized room, I could not help thinking that he was sufficiently comfortable; the more especially as I discovered that, though his cell-door was closed, it was not locked, and although the matron produced various keys, she could not show me one that would lock it. The complainant had thus the free range of the prison from top to bottom, and might, in consequence, have had little difficulty in finding his way outside had he been so disposed.

The number in confinement during the year was 35.

The keeper was absent at the time of my visit; he had only been appointed twelve months ago.

This little prison has all the requisites of an efficient place of confinement; but it is very difficult to convince the new keeper of a small prison that the different doors and gates were intended to

Scotland.

Kinross Prison.

be locked, and that by neglecting to do so the tenure of his appointment hangs by a thread.

The different wards, however, were clean, as was also the clothing and bedding.

The health seems to have been good, and the chaplain's and surgeon's visits regular.

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE.

Kirkcudbright Prison.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT PRISON.

[Inspected May 2 and 3, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

10 male criminals.	
5 female ditto	
1 male civil prisoner.	
Total . .	16

They made no complaints.

The average daily number during the year was 14, the same as in 1849.

The prison buildings were in good order, and the wards clean and neatly arranged.

The general health in the prison continues to be remarkably good, and the surgeon's duties are regularly discharged by Mr. Shand.

The chaplain, Mr. Underwood, seems very zealously to perform the duties required of him on week-days; but by an arrangement with the County Board, he is not expected to perform any duties on Sundays.

The books in the library are reported to be much in request by the prisoners, and generally well taken care of.

The keeper reports the general conduct of the prisoners to have been good.

On visiting the prison kitchen, which is a ground-floor apartment of the keeper's house, used for his family as well as in cooking for the prisoners, and is separated from the prison by an open court-yard, I found a female convict employed there as cook, and as the entrance to the prison from the outer gate is through the said open court-yard, and open to the kitchen window, a prisoner employed there is not only perfectly cognizant of everything which takes place within the prison as well as in the governor's house, but is enabled to make herself a very dangerous associate for the young family of the keeper. I therefore suggested to the General Board, that a communication should be made to the County Board on the subject, which I know has been done.

The principal employments here are—

Shoemaking.	Mat and net-making.
Weaving.	Sewing, &c.

The keeper complains of the difficulty of finding markets for the produce of the prisoners' labour.

The food, the clothing, and the bedding are purchased at the market price, and the keeper settles his accounts quarterly with the clerk of the Board, producing his vouchers; but the settlement is not noted by the clerk of the Board in a cash-book kept by the keeper, which I recommend should be done.

	£.	s.	d.
Average cost of prison diet per head . . .	3	18	7^{10}
Average amount of earnings . . .	3	6	7^{10}
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	16	11	8^{6}

The construction of this prison, with so many floors one above another, and the airing-yards on the roof, makes the working of it, with its small staff, very difficult and unsatisfactory. There is no separate provision for civil prisoners, who are necessarily lodged in some cell in a gallery occupied by criminals, which is very objectionable. It is also very inconvenient, having the prison kitchen detached in so small a prison, thereby precluding a prisoner being employed in it with propriety.

I found the clothing and bedding clean and in good order, and the keeper and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Clark, well qualified for their duties, as is also the only other officer—the male turnkey.

MAXWELLTOWN PRISON.

[Inspected May 6, 1850.]

There were no prisoners in confinement at the time of my visit.

The numbers admitted in the course of the year were—

19 male criminals.
5 female ditto

Total . . 24

The prison building appeared to be in good order, and the cells, as well as the clothing and bedding, clean and neatly kept.

The general health appears to have been good, and the surgeon visits regulary once a-week.

The Rev. W. McFarlane is kind enough to visit the prison gratuitously whenever there are prisoners.

The keeper reports that the prisoners are generally well behaved, and there had been no punishments.

The provisions are purchased at the cheapest market, and the keeper settles quarterly with the clerk of the Board; but the settle-

Scotland: Maxwell-town Prison.

ment is not noted in the cash-book of the keeper, which I recommend should be done.

The keeper and his wife, who seem very deserving and very cleanly in their habits, are very inadequately lodged. They have but one apartment for the use of themselves and three children, the eldest a full grown girl of 16; the same apartment being used as a prison kitchen, and is also the only washing place they have for prisoners' clothing. I beg again respectfully to recommend to the Board that a suitable washing-place be provided, and I would further suggest, whether the room reserved for the use of the Board may not be at the disposal of the keeper on the days on which it is not wanted by the Board.

LANARKSHIRE.

Glasgow Prison.

GLASGOW PRISONS.

[Inspected October 15 and November 14, 1850.]

The total number in confinement in both prisons on the day of inspection was 670.

They made no complaints entitled to notice.

The average daily number in confinement during the year was 717, being 53 more than in 1849.

The prison buildings were in good repair; the different cells and wards in good order, and the general appearance of the prisoners satisfactory.

I stated in my last Report that I did not find the South Prison in the same satisfactory condition as that of the North, in consequence of its not being so immediately under the eye of the governor. On the present occasion, however, I found it much improved, and in every respect satisfactory. Some objectionable cells adjoining the flax-dressing department had been discontinued as dormitories, and the general appearance of everything was very creditable to the head warder in charge.

The want of additional prison accommodation still continues to be much felt, for as the following table shows, out of 654 criminal prisoners in confinement on the day of inspection, they were only enabled to have 238 in single cells. The new wing is, however, in a forward state, and may be expected to be fit for the reception of prisoners early in summer, which will be a great relief to the officers charged with the management.

DISTRIBUTION of Criminal Prisoners.

Number in Separation.	Number in Two's.	Number in Three's.	Number in Four's.	Number in Class Rooms.	Total.
238	234	48	16	118	654

The following were the numbers in the prison on the day of inspection :—

DIVISIONS.	Civil.		Criminal.				Total.		
			Untried.		Convicted.				
	Male.	Fem.	Male.	Fem.	Male.	Fem.	Male.	Fem.	Both.
North Prison . . .	16	..	42	23	207	298	265	321	586
South Prison . . .	..	..	..	..	84	..	84	..	84
United Prisons .	16	..	42	23	291	298	349	321	670

NUMBER of Convicts under Sentence of Transportation.

	Fit for being Transported.	Unfit for being Transported.	Total.
Males . .	63	7	70
Females .	17	11	28
Total .	80	18	98

The general health appears to have been good. The annual return shows that there had been 271 cases of sickness in the course of the year, 132 of which were not required to be off work above 10 days; 66 of them between 10 and 20 days; and 73 for longer periods: but there had been no epidemic or other prevailing disease in the prison.

The unusual number of five natural deaths took place during the quarter ending 31st March, 1850; but the surgeon in his Report states, that they had long been in bad health, suffering from ailments that had always been considered incurable.

The medical duties continue to be most zealously and efficiently carried out by Dr. Gibson, who, in his report for the quarter ending December, remarks that three circumstances deserving notice had been brought into operation during the quarter :—

1. The introduction of minimum sentenced prisoners by the cessation of the Calton Prison for prison purposes, under the Act. 2. The introduction of crank-machine labour into the ordinary discipline of the prison; and, 3, The regulated allowance of prison diet during the whole period of a sixty days' imprisonment.

The duties of the chaplain continue to be carried out in the most efficient manner by the Rev. John Reid, to whose department I am in hopes that the additional accommodation of the new wing will prove a great relief. He reports favourably of the educational department, both in the male and female divisions of

Scotland. Glasgow Prison.

of the prison, and states that the use of the library, as heretofore, is in constant demand, and that, with a few unimportant exceptions, the books are well taken care of by the prisoners.

I observe in his Quarterly Report for September, that he considered it would be important to the efficiency of his department if the County Board would make provision for constituting him a member of the Religious Tract Society.

The following table shows the state and progress of the instruction of criminal prisoners during the year ending June last:—

	On Admission during the said Period.									10.	Improvement during the said Period.		
	1. Could not Read.	2. Read with Difficulty.	3. Read Well.	4. Total.	5. Could not Write.	6. Could Sign his Name merely.	7. Write with Difficulty.	8. Write well.	9. Total.	Had Learned more than mere Reading and Writing.	11. Have improved in Reading or Writing, or both, in Prison.	12. Have improved in Arithmetic or other branches of Instruction.	13. Have Learned a Trade in Prison.
Males .	552	1,030	878	2,460	1,242	..	1,043	175	2,460	8	768	229	192
Females .	415	691	465	1,571	1,155	..	388	28	1,571	1	624	108	288
Total .	967	1,721	1,343	4,031	2,397	..	1,431	203	4,031	9	1,392	337	480

The governor Reports that the general conduct had been good; for though the punishments have been numerous, they had been chiefly for trifling offences, in a great measure caused by the crowded state of the prison. The most serious offence seems to have been committed by a convict named Robert Campbell, who made a desperate assault on one of the male warders on the evening of the 14th September.

The annexed table (p. 43) shows the employments of the prisoners on the day of inspection, and as I stated in my last Report, they embrace the manufacture of every description of article used for prison purposes.

The provisions and principal stores continue to be furnished by contract, and the materials for prison employments are procured by the governor. All accounts are checked and rendered quarterly, and confirmed, after close examination, by the signature of the examining member of the Committee.

	£.	s.	d.
Average cost of prison diet per head	3	12	10^{6}
Average amount of earnings	2	6	7^{8}
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings . .	11	19	11^{3}

The foregoing averages are highly creditable to the management of the governor.

On the recommendation of the General Board, six crank-machines have been fitted up, experimentally, in this prison. They have been sometime in operation, but the governor has not yet reported officially on their working. In a late interview, however, he told me that he was well-satisfied with what he had yet seen of

them, and had no doubt they would prove a most efficient deterring prison employment. Scotland. Glasgow Prison.

OCCUPATION.	Males.	Females.
Teasing oakum	154	..
,, Surat rope	28	..
Heckling	10	..
Cooking and baking	12	..
Teazing hair and cotton	10	58
Weaving	36	..
Winding	7	51
Shoemaking	7	..
Tailoring	13	..
Carpenters, joiners, and painters	8	..
Blacksmiths	9	..
Mending and darning	4	10
Pass-men and fatigue duty	10	12
Sewing	..	99
Washing	..	9
Veining	..	39
Knitting	..	33
Force-pump work	..	4
Untried, not working	21	..
Sick, ,,	4	6
	333	321
Both	654	
Civil prisoners	16	
Total	670	

Every department of the prison appeared in the best possible order, and reflected great credit on the governor, Captain Mullen, of whose zeal and ability I continue to entertain the highest opinion, and he states that he has every reason to be satisfied with the assistance he receives from his subordinate officers, and more especially from the head warder.

CALTON GAOL. CaltonGaol.

This small gaol was discontinued to be used for prison purposes on the 12th November, 1850.

GLASGOW POLICE CELLS. Glasgow Police Cells.

[Visited November 14, 1850.]

An extensive addition to these cells was in course of erection at the time of my visit; but as I had only a cursory view of the plans in the Superintendent's Office, and have received no report of their intended appropriation, I am unable to enter into details.

Scotland.
Lanark Prison.

LANARK PRISON.

[Inspected July 20, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

28 male criminals.	
2 female ditto.	
1 civil prisoner.	
Total . . .	31

They made no complaints.

The average daily number in confinement during the past year was 24, being nine more than in 1849.

The prison buildings were in good repair, the personal appearance of the prisoners clean, as well as the different wards and cells.

The general health had been remarkably good, for there had been only two cases of sickness recorded since February, 1849, and one of these was an accident, a circumstance which conveys a very satisfactory idea of the salubrity of the prison, for since the time named, the average daily number of confinements have been 25, and many of them for long periods.

The keeper states that he makes the prisoners take a bath once a week.

The surgeon's duties seem to have been very regularly performed by Dr. Shirley.

There had been no alteration in the chaplain's duties. He visits the prison once a-week, and preaches in the corridor generally twice on Sundays. These duties seem to be very zealously performed by the Rev. Alexander M'Glashan, who conceives that his labours would be infinitely more beneficial if he could have the advantage of addressing the prisoners in a chapel.

The prisoners are instructed in reading by the male warder, while the keeper instructs them in writing, and their progress seems to be satisfactory under their tuition.

The keeper reports that the general conduct has been good, and I observe by the records that though the punishments had been numerous, they had been nearly all of a trifling character.

I am glad to find that a plan for the erection of airing-yards to this prison are under the consideration of the County Board, for they will be the means of materially reducing the number of petty prison offences.

The employments of the prisoners on the day of inspection were as follows:—

Scotland.

Lanark Prison.

Males.		Females.	
Weaving	7	Washing and mending	1
Winding	2	Making shirts, &c.	1
Net-making	11		
Teasing ropes	6	Total	2
Painting prison	1		
Shoemaking	1		
	28		
Civil prisoner, weaving	1		
Total	29		

The provisions are supplied by contract, and the clothing and bedding purchased at the best market. The accounts are settled monthly, but the settlement is not noted by the clerk of the Board in the prison cash-book, which I recommend should be done.

	£.	s.	d.
Average amount of prison diet per head	3	18	6[a]
Average amount of earnings	2	8	9
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings	17	4	3

Every department was in a very satisfactory state, and very creditable to Mr. Lennie, the keeper, who speaks favourably of the assistance he receives from the matron and the male-warder.

Airdrie Prison.

AIRDRIE PRISON.

[Inspected March 8, 1851.]

Present in confinement:—

11 male criminals.
6 female ditto.

Total . . 17

They made no complaints.

The average daily number in confinement during the year was 29, being one more than in 1849.

The prison buildings were in good order. The outer-door has been secured with a chain, and the lamp, recommended in my last Report, has been placed outside the gate. No provision, however, has been made for the better warming of the prison, the heating apparatus, as formerly reported, giving no warmth to the cells; the highest range of heat attainable in winter never exceeding 51°, while, in some of the cells, it runs as low as 44°. This ought to be amended.

The top of the prison stair, which is the only entrance to the upper floor of the prison, is unprotected against fire, while it is embraced on two sides by a store-room, with a wooden floor, con-

Scotland. Airdrie Prison.

taining combustible stores, such as oakum, &c., and in the event of a fire taking place in that room, the flames would be at once on the stair, precluding the possibility of liberating the prisoners confined on that floor. Were the room not occupied with stores, there would still be a necessity for making that part of the stair fire-proof, as the room is the upper part of the keeper's house, which is exposed to accidental fire as much as others; I, therefore, wrote at once to the Secretary of the General Board, suggesting the necessity of measures being immediately taken for its proper security.

The general health appears to have been good, and the surgeon's duties regularly performed by Mr. Robertson, who, in his Quarterly Report for December last, particularly calls the attention of the County Board "to the horribly filthy state of the sewer and burn outside the prison wall," deeming it essentially necessary that the authorities should have it covered over previous to the setting in of the hot season.

The Rev. John Campbell appears zealously to have performed the duties of chaplain; there is, however, no provision for instruction, and although being only legalized for 30 days' imprisonment after conviction, it is not required by the rules, yet it not unfrequently happens that persons are confined here for three or four months before trial, and it therefore appears very desirable that the younger portion of the prisoners so circumstanced should be instructed.

The keeper reports that the general conduct has been good; and I observed that the punishments recorded are mostly for petty prison offences.

The chief employments are—

Breaking stones,
Teasing oakum,
Sewing, &c.

The provisions are supplied by contract, and the accounts settled quarterly; but the settlement is not noted in any cash-book kept in the prison, which I recommend should be done.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Average cost of prison diet per head . .	4	5	4
Average amount of earnings	1	13	8
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	15	17	10

Every department of the prison, the cells, clothing, bedding, &c., were in a perfect state of cleanliness, and reflected great credit on Mr. Sinclair, the keeper, and Miss Wright, the matron. The former matron died in September last, and I must beg the attention of the County Board to the very insufficient accommodation provided for the matron in the prison of Airdrie, it being nothing but a common prison cell, with the addition of a fire-place, which can scarcely be said to be an advantage to it, owing

to the situation in which it is placed. It appears to me that the matron of a prison ought to be better lodged than a prisoner, and I, therefore, recommend, that the two female cells above the governor's office should be thrown into one, and made a comfortable room for her accommodation.

LINLITHGOWSHIRE.

LINLITHGOW PRISON.

[Inspected July 11, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

9 male criminals.
4 female ditto.

Total . . 13

They made no complaints.

The average daily number in confinement during the year was 20, being four less than in 1849.

The prison building was in good order, and the hoppers, recommended in my last report, having been fixed to the windows, are found effectually to prevent the evils so long complained of, in prisoners communicating with their friends outside.

The general health seems to have been very good, and the surgeon's duties regularly carried out by Dr. Baird.

I mentioned, in my last Report, that there had long been a difficulty in finding a clergyman willing to undertake the duties of chaplain. I found, on my last visit, that Mr. Gordon, a missionary minister, was performing the duties of chaplain and teacher, giving an hour's instruction every night on week-days, and preaching on Sundays.

The keeper states that the general conduct of the prisoners had been remarkably good, and that since the hoppers have been fixed to the cell windows, the necessity for punishment rarely occurs.

Though the average number in confinement during the past year has been less than the year preceding, the want of additional prison accommodation has not, on that account, been the less felt, for, with only 15 cells, the number of prisoners in confinement has sometimes ranged as high as 39; I was, therefore, glad to learn that the County Board are entertaining plans for its extension, which, I again recommend, should be by making separate provision for the female prisoners.

The usual employments here are—

Weaving,
Teasing oakum,
Sewing, &c.

Scotland.

Linlithgow Prison.

The provisions are all purchased at what is believed to be the cheapest and the best market, but as the average cost of prison diet per head during the year was 6*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, and the net cost per head, after deducting earnings, 23*l.* 1*s* 6¼*d.*, they are averages that seem deserving the consideration of the County Board, the dietary being the highest of any prison in Scotland, for with the unusually low averages of prisons in neighbouring districts, it is probable that that of Linlithgow will be found, on inquiry, to be open to improved arrangements.

The cells, the clothing, and bedding, &c., were all clean and creditable to the keeper.

NAIRNSHIRE.

Nairn Prison.

NAIRN PRISON.

[Inspected September 4, 1850.]

Present in confinement :—

1 male criminal.
1 female ditto.
1 male civil prisoner.

Total . . 3

They made no complaints.

The number of persons committed here during the year was 36.

The prison buildings were in good order, and every department very clean.

The general health had been good.

There had been no change since last inspection.

PEEBLESSHIRE.

Peebles Prison.

PEEBLES PRISON.

[Inspected April 24, 1850.]

Present in confinement :—

3 male criminals.
2 female ditto.

Total . . 5

They made no complaints.

The average daily number in confinement during the year has been eight.

The prison buildings were in good order, and no change had taken place since last inspection.

Scotland.

Peebles Prison.

The general health had been good, and the surgeon's duties regularly performed.

The chaplain, the Rev. John Little, states, that he has charged himself with the superintendence of the elementary and all other instruction given to the prisoners, and that he has to report favourably of the progress they have made; that the prison library is in great request, and the books well taken care of; that the prisoners, with one or two exceptions, have shown a considerable desire for their moral and religious improvement, but he is not prepared to speak with confidence that they have really amended in consequence.

The general conduct has been good.

The chief employments are—

Matmaking,
Netmaking,
Sewing, &c.

The provisions are supplied by contract, and the keeper settles his accounts monthly with the clerk of the Board. The female clothing is made in prison; that for the males made in town, there being rarely a prisoner capable of doing such work.

Average cost of prison diet per head, 5*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*

There is no store-room in the prison, and the debtors' sleeping apartment is used for that purpose when there are no debtors in confinement: at other times the stores have to be removed to a criminal cell, which practice is very inconvenient and objectionable.

The keeper complains that the heating apparatus does not work well.

The clothing, bedding, &c., were very clean, and the keeper, Mr. Foster, seems well qualified for his duties.

PERTHSHIRE.

PERTH COUNTY PRISON.

Perth County Prison.

[Inspected September 18, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

49 male criminals.
27 female ditto.
4 male civil prisoners.

Total . . 80

They made no complaints requiring notice.

The average daily number in confinement during the year was 96, being five less than in 1849.

Scotland.

Perth County Prison.

The prison buildings were in good repair, but additional accommodation is much wanted, and I regret that it has not come within my knowledge that any plan is in preparation for its increase.

The general health has been satisfactory, for though the recorded cases of sickness have been rather numerous, they have not been of a serious character, nor has there been any prevailing disease. There had been two deaths during the year of untried prisoners from complaints contracted prior to their admission. The surgeon's duties are very efficiently carried out by Dr. White.

The Rev. Peter Thomson had been appointed chaplain and teacher since last inspection, his predecessor having succeeded to the vacant situation of chaplain to the prison of Aberdeen.

The governor and the matron were absent in Aberdeen at the time of my visit.

The punishments recorded were rather numerous, but nothing in them requiring observation.

The principal employments are—

Weaving, Winding, Teasing ropes,	Sewing, Knitting, &c.

The provisions are furnished by contract, and the other stores purchased at the best and cheapest market. The accounts are settled quarterly.

	£.	s.	d.
Average cost of prison diet per head . .	3	18	11
Average amount of earnings	2	15	0
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	9	4	0

The foregoing averages are very creditable to the management of the governor, Mr. Hutchison, as was also the general appearance of every department of the prison.

I cannot conclude without earnestly recommending that some measures be taken to increase the prison accommodation here, for the confinements in the County Prison of Perth, in its present state, instead of being of a deterring character, must be rather an inducement to crime.

Perth Police Cells.

PERTH POLICE CELLS.

[Visited September 18, 1850.]

There has been no alteration in these cells since last inspection, and they are still open to the objections formerly reported. I found them, nevertheless, very clean and well kept.

DUNBLANE PRISON.

[Inspected July 12, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

3 male criminals.
3 female ditto.

Total . . 6

They made no complaints.

The average daily number in confinement during the year was six, being three less than in 1849.

The prison building was in good order, as was also every department of the prison, which showed a marked improvement since last inspection; and though my visit was made at a very early hour in the morning, I found that I had already been preceded by the Sheriff-Substitute.

There had been only two cases of sickness during the year, and the surgeon's visits are regular.

The Free-Church schoolmaster had been appointed teacher on the 20th ultimo. He gives an hour's instruction on three days in the week, and reads a portion of the Bible, and prays with the prisoners on Sundays.

The keeper states that the prisoners are generally well-behaved, and that he had only one disorderly character since last inspection.

The chief employments are—

Shirtmaking,
Shoemaking, and
Woolpicking.

The keeper states that the stores are provided by contract, and his accounts are settled only once a year, producing his vouchers to the clerk of the County Board, but the state of the accounts are not shown, nor the settlement noted in any book kept in the prison, which I recommend should be done.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Average cost of prison diet per head . .	4	18	3
Average amount of earnings	3	4	2
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	16	10	10

The keeper and the matron, Mr. and Mrs. Laing, seem well qualified for their duties.

BLAIRGOWRIE PRISON.

[Inspected September 14, 1850.]

There had been no prisoners in confinement since the 29th of last month.

The cells and bedding looked in good order.

The keeper was laid up with rheumatism at the time of my visit. He says that the surgeon calls once a-week when there are prisoners; but there is no Prison Book in which his visits are recorded.

Scotland.

Blairgowrie Prison.

I found no book in the prison, except an old Criminal Description Book. If this place is to be continued as a prison, it is very desirable that the keeper should be provided with the necessary books, for without them there is no check whatever on the management.

The keeper stated that he is allowed to charge 2*d.* for each meal, and 1*d.* per day for coals; and that he gives three meals a-day, being at the rate of 9*d.* for each prisoner.

As stated in my Report on the prison of Keith, this practice is contrary to the provisions of rule 16 for the government of the prisons of Scotland.

RENFREWSHIRE.

Greenock Prison.

GREENOCK PRISON.

[Inspected April 17, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

12 male criminals.
8 female ditto.

Total . . 20

They made no complaints.

The average daily number in confinement during the past year was 25, being 5 less than in 1849.

This prison is insecure, owing to the window-bars being of cast-iron. The walls and wood-work are very much defaced with marks and cuttings, which ought to be removed, as they induce to a continuation of such practices.

The general health in the prison seems to have been good; and the surgeon's duties regularly conducted.

The chaplain left in October last, and there was no entry in his journal since the 16th of that month; but the keeper informed me that the parish minister, Dr. Brown, has in the meantime been kind enough to attend twice a-week gratuitously.

The keeper and the matron continue to give instruction to their respective sexes; and the progress in learning, under their tuition, appears to be satisfactory.

The library books for the use of the prisoners were not in good order.

The punishments recorded were rather numerous, but not of a serious character, being mostly caused by the defective state of the prison.

There can be little attempt at discipline in such a prison as Greenock; but it is, nevertheless, open to some improvements.

The ground-floor of the west wing is now free from damp, and that wing would now accommodate the whole of the females, instead of having a portion of them detached in the east wing. There are plenty of doors in the prison; but I found the usual

difficulty here, of convincing the officers of the necessity of keeping them locked.

At the time of my visit the door of the airing-gallery was open, with a male prisoner in it unwatched; and I pointed out to the keeper that the said prisoner was quite free to enter his (the keeper's) office, or to go up stairs into the matron's room. But he seems not to have profited by the remark, for I observe, by a subsequent report, that a returned convict had made his escape in consequence of the said airing-yard door being left open!

The principal employments here are—

Mat-making.	Sewing, &c.
Teasing hair.	

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Average cost of prison diet per head . .	3	9	0
Average amount of earnings . . .	3	10	9
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	16	0	10

The foregoing averages are highly creditable to the management of the keeper, Mr. Love.

The keeper states that his accounts with the Board are only settled once a-year, as formerly; and that no alteration has been made in consequence of my recommendation on that head in last Report.

The keeper and matron seem both well-qualified for their duties. The female side was particularly clean and well kept, as were also most of the wards on the male side; but I would suggest to the keeper, that the stores and work-rooms might be better arranged.

The following tables show the nature of the committments to this prison during the past year:—

TABLE I.—Number of Committals.

Males.	Females.	Total.	Daily Average.	Greatest Number.	Least Number.
261	183	444	25	38	10

TABLE II.—State of Education.

	Reading.			Writing.			Total.
	Cannot Read.	Can Read a little.	Can Read well.	Cannot Write.	Can Write a little.	Can Write well.	
Males . .	94	65	102	159	86	16	261
Females. .	56	60	67	148	35	...	183
Centesimal proportion }	33·75	28·15	38·1	69·15	27·25	3·6	101

Scotland.

Greenock Prison.

TABLE III.—Birth-places of Prisoners.

	Greenock.	Rest of Scotland.	Ireland.	England.	Abroad.	Total.
	133	152	129	16	14	444
Centesimal proportion	29·97	34·28	29·	3·6	3·15	100

TABLE IV.—Where Prisoners have spent the greater part of their Lives.

	Greenock.	Rest of Scotland.	Ireland.	England.	Abroad.	Total.
	214	119	78	15	18	444
Centesimal proportion	48·2	26·85	17·58	3·37	4·	100

Table V.—Ordinary Occupations.

	Labourers.	Seamen.	Engineers and Boilermakers.	Blacksmiths.	Hammermen.	Joiners and Cabinetmakers.	Shoemakers.	Tailors.	Farm Servants.	Carters.	Hawkers.	Riggers and Rafters.	Miscellaneous.	None.	Totals.
Males.	72	47	9	14	5	21	9	4	2	7	18	3	38	12	261

	Housekeeping.	Servants.	Sewing.	Washing.	Hawking.	Prostitution.	Dressmakers.	Miscellaneous.	None.	Total.
Females	87	9	2	5	8	41	12	9	10	183

TABLE VI.—Offences for which Committed.

	Assault with Intent, &c.	Theft and Reset of Theft.	Fraud.	Forgery.	Uttering Base Coin.	Assault.	Drunk and Disorderly.	Malicious Mischief.	Bigamy.	Smuggling.	Deserting Her Majesty's Service	Other Offences.	Total.
Males . .	4	106	3	2	2	86	40	3	1	4	1	9	261
Females. .	..	105	2	..	2	27	40	4	..	..	..	3	183
Centesimal proportion.	19	47·53	1·13	·45	·9	25·45	18·	1·58	·3	·9	·23	2·7	100

PAISLEY PRISON.

[Inspected October 16, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

68 male criminals.	
41 female ditto.	
5 male civil ditto.	
Total . .	114

They made no complaints deserving notice.

The average daily number in confinement during the year was 129, being 18 less than in 1849.

The new wing, as stated in my last report as being about to be built, was, at the time of my last visit, in a very forward state, and may be expected to be occupied in the early part of this summer. The discipline in the old prison has in the mean time been, in consequence, considerably interfered with; but I found everything in as good order as, under existing circumstances, could be expected.

The general health appears to have been good, although there had been two deaths during the April quarter; the one from disease and debility, brought on by irregular habits, and the other a female, who died of inflammation of the womb after childbirth. The surgeon's duties continue to be regularly and efficiently performed by Dr. Paton.

There has been no alteration in the chaplain's duties. The Rev. W. Smith, carrying out the united duties of chaplain and teacher with much zeal and ability. A considerable addition has been made to the library; and the chaplain states that the books are generally well taken care of.

The punishments have been rather numerous, owing to the nature of the building and the alterations going on; but they are all of a trifling character.

The principal employments are—

Weaving,	Mat-making,
Winding,	Cotton-picking, &c.

The provisions, as well as all other stores, are furnished by contract, and the accounts are settled quarterly.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Average cost of prison diet per head . .	3	8	10
Average amount of earnings . . .	2	2	2
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	9	8	4

It is to be remarked that the foregoing averages are highly creditable to the management of Mr. Bird, the Governor, with whose zeal and ability I continue to be much satisfied; as, also, with the management of Mrs. Young, the matron; and they report favourably of their subordinate officers.

Scotland.

PORT GLASGOW PRISON.

Port Glasgow Prison.

[Inspected April 17, 1850.]

There were no prisoners in confinement.

There had been no alteration since last inspection.

The prison building was in good order; the clothing, bedding, &c., clean and well kept.

The number confined during the year was 76.

The health in the prison seems to have been good. The surgeon visits regularly once a week, and at all other times when required.

There had been no punishments for prison offences; but on examining the Criminal Register, I observed that four youths had been whipped in the prison on the 2nd instant. They proved, however, on inquiry, to be only police cases, and that the whipping took place in the presence of their respective parents and the committing magistrates; and that they were only whipped within the prison because the police cells are so immediately upon the street. I would beg to recommend, however, that the Prison Register should only be used for persons committed to prison, for the including of police cases, such as the one just noticed, is likely to lead to future misunderstandings.

I may here be permitted to remark, that the instrument with which the aforesaid whipping was inflicted was a much heavier one than that used for military punishments, which I think is unnecessary.

The prisoners are dieted according to rule; and the keeper is allowed 4*d.* per day for the dieting of each prisoner, which is contrary to the provisions of the 16th rule for the government of the prisons of Scotland.

The clothing is supplied from the prison at Paisley.

The superintendent of police, Mr. Maclean, has charge of the prison, and seems well qualified for his duties.

Pollockshaws Prison.

POLLOCKSHAWS PRISON.

[Inspected October 18, 1850.]

There were no prisoners in confinement.

The number committed here during the year amounted to 208.

The prison building appeared to be in good order. A bath-room had been added since last inspection; but by some oversight they had neglected to secure the window with iron stancheons, in consequence of which a prisoner made his escape. The window has since been made secure.

The keeper had gone to Paisley on some duty on the day of my visit, taking with him the key of the desk in which the books

were locked up, so that I had not an opportunity of examining them. Scotland.

Neither the bedding nor the cells, at the time of my visit, appeared so cleanly as I expected to find them in the absence of prisoners. Pollockshaws Prison.

ROSS-SHIRE.

DINGWALL PRISON. Dingwall Prison.

[Inspected September 5, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

	5 male criminals.
	1 female ditto.
Total . .	6

They made no complaints.

The number confined here during the year was 70.

The prison buildings were in excellent repair, and every department as usual, in a perfect state of cleanliness.

The general health had been good. Only two cases of sickness are recorded during the year.

I have not received any copies of the Quarterly Reports of the surgeon of this prison for the past year, as directed by the General Board to be furnished.

The chaplain died since last inspection, and the Rev. M. Mackenzie, of Ferintosh, performs the duties *ad interim*.

There have been only six punishments recorded since last visit, and the governor reports that the general conduct has been good, with the exception of one female, who wantonly cut and destroyed the prison bedding.

The airing-yard is not secure without the constant attendance of an officer, on account of its being open above, which is a great inconvenience.

The governor states in his June Report, that the prisoner, R. M., who made his escape from the prison yard in May, 1849, died of cholera in Caithness, in November last.

The chief employments here are—

Net-making,	Sewing,
Carpentering,	Knitting, &c.

The provisions and clothing are purchased by the governor at the best and cheapest market, and the accounts are settled quarterly.

I continue to entertain the most favourable opinion of the zeal and ability of the governor and matron, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart.

Scotland.

Tain Prison.

TAIN PRISON.

[Inspected September 7, 1850.]

There were no prisoners in confinement.

The number committed during the year was 30.

The prison buildings were in good repair; the cells, as well as the clothing and bedding, clean and neatly kept.

The general health had been good, and the surgeon's visits regular.

The chaplain visits when there are prisoners; but there never has been the number, as required by the Regulations, to preach to on Sundays.

The general conduct had been good; and the punishments few.

The chief employments are—

Mat-making,	Oakum teazing.

The provisions and stores are purchased by the keeper, and the accounts settled annually. He states, that he places all the juvenile prisoners on the second-class diet.

The keeper, Mr. Ross, seems well qualified for his duties.

I observed that a boy, aged 10 years, had been committed for the first time 7 days, for stealing a brass weight weighing 2½ ounces.

CROMARTYSHIRE.

Cromarty Prison.

CROMARTY PRISON.

[Inspected September 9, 1850.]

There had been no prisoners in confinement since the 21st of August.

The number admitted during the year was 70.

This prison was opened in 1847, and contains three good cells for criminals; one of them double size, a debtors'-room, and a bath-room. The cell windows, however, are overlooked from the roof of a cottage built against the prison wall, by which any person may have access to the prison ground, and the opportunity of communicating with the prisoners during the night.

The prisoners had been healthy; and the surgeon visits regularly once a week, whether there are prisoners or not.

The chaplain attends only when there are prisoners in confinement. His journal shows 12 visits made since the 14th January, 1849.

The keeper states that the chaplain's duty consists in conversing with the prisoners on religious subjects, and praying with them.

The clothing and bedding are supplied from Dingwall; and the provisions purchased at the best and cheapest market.

The keeper, Mr. Ross, seems well qualified for his duties.

ROXBURGHSHIRE.

JEDBURGH PRISON.

[Inspected March 22, 1850.]

Present in confinement—

25 male criminals.
5 female ditto.
1 male civil prisoner.

Total . . 31

The average daily number in custody during the year has been 30, being 4 more than in 1849.

The prison buildings were all in good order, and the different wards clean, with the exception of two cells which had not been put in order since last occupied.

Louvres had been added, since last inspection, to the windows requiring them, to prevent communication between prisoners, as also with persons beyond the walls.

One prisoner complained of cold; and on examining the thermometer, it stood at 48°, which is some degrees below the lowest temperature recommended by medical men to be maintained in such establishments. Another prisoner complained that he had been employed in the service of the governor, to groom his horse and clean the horse furniture (a bridle was, in fact, then hanging in his cell). On inquiry, I found, and he himself admitted, that he had never complained to the governor, nor made any objections to his being so employed; but on my pointing out to the governor that such employment was contrary to the spirit of the 17th Rule for the Government of the Prisons of Scotland, he said it would be discontinued.

The general health in the prison during the year seems to have been pretty good, and the surgeon's duties regularly discharged.

The Rev. W. Scott continues to conduct the duties of chaplain and teacher with his usual zeal and ability.

The governor reports that the general conduct has been good; although I observed that the punishments are still rather numerous; there were none requiring notice.

The chief employments are—

Teasing wool and oakum,	Winding,
Weaving,	Sewing, &c.

The keeper states that the prisoners come chiefly from Kelso; and that he finds fewer professional workers among them than formerly.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Average cost of prison diet per head . .	3	9	7
Average amount of earnings . . .	3	4	11
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	15	7	9

Scotland.

Jedburgh Prison.

The dietary here during the past year, it will be observed, is among the lowest in Scotland, and highly creditable to the management of Mr. Meikle, the governor, as was also the general appearance of every department of the prison, with the exceptions already noticed. The matron, Mrs. Meikle, seems also well qualified for her duties.

The different supplies continue to be found, as shown in my last Report.

The warders seem intelligent and active in the discharge of their duties.

Jedburgh Police Cells.

JEDBURGH POLICE CELLS.

[Visited March 22, 1850.]

There were no prisoners in confinement; and I found everything clean, and in good order.

Hawick Prison.

HAWICK PRISON.

[Inspected March 2, 1850.]

There were two persons in confinement, sentenced each to ten days' imprisonment. They made no complaints.

The number of prisoners confined here during the year was 49.

The prison buildings were in good order; but the ventilation was defective, and the windows were so fixed as to admit only of a very small opening. I find, however, by a subsequent report, that they have since been altered, and the keeper is now enabled properly to ventilate and purify the cells.

The general health has been good, and the surgeon's visits regular.

There is no chaplain; but the parish minister, the Rev. J. McRae, is kind enough to visit the prisoners occasionally gratuitously.

There were no punishments recorded since December, 1848.

On examining the Criminal Register, I observed that five boys, the youngest nine, the oldest only eleven years of age, were committed on 20th September, 1849, for two days each.

Their offence, as explained to me by the keeper, was for stealing pears from a tree near a farmhouse.

The clothing and bedding are supplied from Jedburgh, and the keeper purchases the diet, the accounts for which are settled quarterly, after being examined and certified.

The keeper, Mr. Anderson, seems zealous, and well qualified for his duties.

KELSO PRISON.

[Inspected October 13, 1850.]

There were no prisoners in confinement.

The number admitted during the year was 33.

Everything appeared in good order; but the keeper states that some of the cells are damp in wet weather, and that the stove overheats the corridor without raising the temperature in the cells.

The health seems to have been good, and the visits of Dr. Wilson, the surgeon, regular.

There is no chaplain; but the parish minister, the Rev. J. Smith, is kind enough to visit gratuitously when there are prisoners.

There had been no punishments.

The food is purchased by the keeper, who places all prisoners on second-class diet, and charges what it costs. The accounts are settled quarterly, but not noted in any cash-book kept in the prison, which I recommend should be done.

The present keeper, George Lamb, a shoemaker by trade, was appointed in May, 1849. He is allowed 5*l.* per annum, with fire and gas. He seems well qualified for his duties.

SELKIRKSHIRE.

SELKIRK PRISON.

[Inspected March 22, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

6 male criminals
3 female ditto.
1 male civil prisoner.

Total . . 10

They made no complaints.

The number in confinement during the year was 49.

There had been no alteration in the prison buildings since my last visit.

The cells were clean and in good order, with the exception of one in which a sick male prisoner was confined, and which, from defective ventilation, was very offensive and unwholesome.

The general health seems to have been good. The surgeon visits regularly, but once a-week only. The keeper states that he comes at other times as often as required.

The chaplain seems to be attentive to his duties, and the keeper and the matron continue to give instruction to the prisoners of their respective sexes.

The conduct of the prisoners seems generally to have been good, and the punishments few and trifling.

Scotland.

Selkirk Prison.

I found a girl, aged 13, committed for the first time, confined in the same cell with a woman who had been five times in prison. The keeper stated that she had been so doubled up by order of the sheriff.

The principal employments are—

Sand-beating,
Shoemaking,
Knitting, &c.

The keeper purchases the different supplies, and certifies to the correctness of the accounts, which are settled quarterly with the clerk of the County Board.

The keeper and the matron, Mr. and Mrs. Humber, seem well qualified for their duties.

STIRLINGSHIRE.

Stirling Prison.

STIRLING PRISON.

[Inspected July 12, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

61 male criminals.
20 female ditto.
2 male civil prisoners.

Total . . 83

They made no complaints entitled to notice.

The average daily number in confinement during the year was 90, being three more than in 1849.

The prison buildings were in good repair; but the keeper states that the upper floors are a little damp after heavy storms. The personal appearance of the prisoners looked cleanly, as did also the different wards and cells.

The sanitary condition of the prison seems to have been satisfactory, for though there had been a good many cases of sickness and one death, there had been no prevailing disease. The surgeon's duties appear to be regularly and zealously carried out by Mr. Forrest.

The duties of chaplain and teacher appear to be very satisfactorily discharged by the Rev. James Anderson. He reports that the prisoners in general are docile and respectful in receiving instruction, and many of them improve greatly in reading, writing, and arithmetic; but that he sees no symptoms of moral or spiritual improvement. He complains that the library books are very much misused.

The general conduct of the prisoners seems to have been but indifferent. I observed that the cases in which hand-cuffing had been necessary were numerous, and two convicts behaved very

recklessly. One of them assaulted a warder, and would have thrown him over the gallery railing had he not been prevented by another prisoner. A prisoner known to be a dangerous character ought never to be visited by a single warder; in such a prison as Stirling, it is exposing the life of an officer unnecessarily, and is an inducement to a vicious prisoner to commit an outrage which he would not have attempted had two officers been present.

I must repeat my observations in former Reports, that the confinements in this prison must continue to be very unsatisfactory while it is occupied by both sexes as at present, and with the accommodation so insufficient for the usual numbers.

The following were the employments on the day of inspection:—

	Males.	Females.
Weaving	6	0
Shoemaking	3	0
Tailor-work	2	0
Winding	2	0
Net-making	12	0
Mat-making	5	0
Saddle-making	1	0
Teasing oakum, wool, and hair	21	0
Fine sewing	0	4
Inferior ditto	0	11
Domestic occupations	4	5
Sick and unable to work	4	0
Untried, not working	1	0
Civil prisoners not working	2	0
	63	20

The provisions and stores are chiefly supplied by contract, and the accounts are checked monthly, and handed to the clerk of the County Board for payment.

The governor settles his own accounts quarterly with the treasurer, and the settlement is duly recorded in his cash-book.

	£.	s.	d.
Average cost of prison diet per head	4	14	1
Average amount of earnings	2	9	9
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings	11	5	0

I continue to be very much satisfied with the zeal and ability of Mr. Campbell, the governor, and he speaks favourably of his subordinate officers. The management of Miss Logan, the matron, who has not been long in office, is also very favourably reported.

FALKIRK PRISON.

[Inspected August 8, 1850.]

There were no prisoners in confinement.

The number admitted during the year was 219.

Scotland.

Falkirk Prison.

It has undergone no alteration, but remains in the same objectionable condition as so often reported. I am glad, however, to find that a suitable site for a new prison has been obtained, and that everything is progressing towards the commencement of the building.

The cells, as well as the clothing and the bedding, were in as good order as could be expected.

The surgeon's duties continue to be regularly attended to by Dr. Girdwood. There had been no cases of sickness of any importance.

The keeper, Mr. Wilson, seems very zealous and active. He is allowed 3½*d.* per day per head for dieting the prisoners, which I beg to remark, as I did on the prison of Keith, is contrary to the 16th Rule for the Government of the Prisons of Scotland.

SUTHERLANDSHIRE.

Dornoch Prison.

DORNOCH PRISON.

[Inspected September 6, 1850.]

There were present in confinement three male criminals. They made no complaints.

The total number confined during the year was 32.

The prison buildings were in good repair, and every department in a perfect state of cleanliness.

The health of the prisoners had been very good.

The chaplain visits them in their cells once a-week, and preaches on Sundays, when, according to rule, there are five prisoners in confinement.

They are instructed in their respective classes by the keeper and the matron, and their progress seems satisfactory.

The general conduct had been good. There is no punishment recorded since June, 1849.

The chief employments are, mat-making and stone-breaking.

The prisoners on first admission are all placed on the second-rate diet, and their succeeding to a higher class is made dependent on their good behaviour and the amount of work they perform.

The provisions and stores are all purchased by the keeper, and the accounts settled annually; but the settlement is not noted in any cash-book kept in the prison, which I recommend should be done.

I observed cages with birds kept in two of the cells occupied by prisoners, which I recommended should be removed.

I observed also that the airing-yard had a central walk with a border of flowers on each side. It looked very neat, but as it is a luxury which may not come within the reach of some who are required to contribute towards the maintenance of the criminals who are thus indulged in their airings, I recommended that the cultivation of flowers in such a place be discontinued.

Scotland.

Dornoch Prison.

The foregoing observation is, however, only intended to apply to the interior of the airing-yard, and not to the prison grounds, for I take much pleasure in observing the pride and taste displayed by the keepers of prisons in turning their plots of ground to the best advantage, usefully as well as ornamentally.

The keeper complained of the difficulty he had in obtaining the services even of a paid female to undertake the cleaning and washing of the prison, as the numbers in confinement were generally so few, and mostly of a class not capable of performing such duties, he said he would very gladly bear a portion of the expenses attending the removal of two or three female convicts or other prisoners sentenced to long confinements from any prison the limited accommodation of which might render it desirable to obtain such relief.

The keeper and the matron, Mr. and Mrs. Forbes, seem both very zealous in the discharge of their duties.

WIGTONSHIRE.

WIGTON PRISON.

Wigton Prison.

[Inspected May 4, 1850.]

Present in confinement—10 male criminals.

They made no complaints.

The average daily number during the year was eight.

The prison, though new, appears not to have been well finished, for at the time of my visit nearly all the windows admitted rain, and some of the cells were in consequence damp.

The general health, however, had been good. Very few cases of sickness are recorded, and those of a trifling nature.

The chaplain's duties have been regularly performed by the Rev. James Markland.

The library is well supplied, and the books are in good order.

The general conduct has been good.

The principal employments are:—

Mat-making,
Net-making,
Picking oakum, &c.

On examining the books I found no entry in the daily statement book since June 8th, 1849. The keeper had all the information on separate memorandums; but they ought to be daily entered in the book.

There is a great want of necessary store accommodation in this prison; no place to put oakum and other supplies for prison labour, except in the airing-yard, which precludes its being employed for the purpose intended. The prisoners' bedding during the day has to be laid on the floor of the corridor which is

Scotland.

Wigton Prison.

frequently damp. The health of the prisoners would require that some boards or forms should be supplied to save it from such exposure.

The average cost of diet is one of the highest among the prisons of Scotland, and is deserving the consideration of the County Board.

	£.	s.	d.
Average cost of prison diet per head . .	6	7	0
Average amount of earnings	0	17	7
Net cost per head, after deducting earnings .	18	0	1

The keeper and the matron, Mr. and Mrs. McNerny, seemed very zealous and anxious in the discharge of their duties, and they are ably assisted by their daughter, who gives her services gratuitously. The cells, the clothing, bedding, &c., were clean, and creditable to their management.

PRISONS OF ENGLAND

ATTACHED TO

THE DISTRICT OF SCOTLAND.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

CARLISLE COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[Inspected October 27 and November 25, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

69 male criminals.
25 female ditto.
2 male civil prisoners.

Total . . 96

They made numerous complaints on the quality and insufficiency of the prison diet. I had reason, however, to be satisfied that there was no ground whatever for the first complaint, and the other I shall notice presently.

The prison buildings were in good repair, and every department of the prison, as well as the personal appearance of the prisoners, cleanly.

The governor died since last inspection, and Mr. Redin, his successor, only entered on his duties in June last, but there is already a manifest improvement in the general appearance of the prison, as well as in the working arrangements. In the latter department there is still much to be done, and various little alterations required in the interior of the prison, to enable the governor to carry out his views satisfactorily; but as he reported at the time of my visit that he had already brought them under the notice of the magistrates, who he found at all times anxious to forward every suggestion he made whereby the discipline of the gaol may be improved, I feel it due to all parties, at the present stage of improvement, to allow things to progress without further remark.

The general health appears to have been good. There had been one death from consumption, and two cases of insanity, but there had been only 19 cases of illness requiring infirmary treatment, which the surgeon, in his annual report remarks

England.

Carlisle County Gaol and House of Correction.

cannot be traced to have any connexion with the diet, employment, &c.

I have already remarked that I had numerous complaints on the insufficiency of the diet. On examining the record of the weights of prisoners on admission and discharge, which had only been kept regularly since the present governor came into office, I was surprised to find, that out of 68 names recorded, 5 only had gained in weight, 4 had continued the same as on their admission, and 59 had lost weight. The total amount gained was 8½ lbs., while the loss amounted to 385½ lbs.

The dietary in use has only as yet been approved by the Secretary of State experimentally, and though loss of weight cannot always be taken as the true criterion by which a sufficiency of diet to preserve the health of a prisoner is to be determined, yet the loss was shown to have been so uniformly on the wrong side, that I did not feel quite satisfied on the subject, the more especially as the personal appearance of two or three of the complainants gave some degree of weight to their complaint; but as the general health continued to be reported good, I felt that the only thing to be done was closely to watch its further working.

The governor pointed out that the dietary-table, with which I had been furnished last year, was incorrect, I have therefore inserted a corrected copy in the Appendix to this Report.

The chaplain's duties have been regularly and efficiently carried out by the Rev. — Thwaytes,—besides the ordinary routine of instruction, the chaplain prepares weekly a list of questions written upon a black board in front of their desks, which the prisoners copy on their slates and write the answers, and is found to work well, as he says they take great interest in preparing the answers.

The matron undertakes, also, the duty of schoolmistress, which I apprehend will scarcely be found consistent with her other duties.

The governor reported that the general conduct of the prisoners had been tolerably good, and I have no doubt that the number of punishments will be found to decrease as the improvements in the working arrangements progress.

The governor also stated that his predecessor did not leave any documents which enabled him to prepare the usual annual return for the year, I could, therefore, obtain no information except from subsequent quarterly reports.

The provisions and stores are furnished by contract. The rate per head for diet, for the quarter ending 10th October, was stated to be 4*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

The governor, Mr. Redin, seems very zealous and well qualified for his duties, and he reports himself well satisfied with the management of the matron, and the assistance he receives from his subordinate officers.

England.

Carlisle County Gaol and House of Correction.

The following were the employments of the prisoners on the day of inspection, as well as the offences for which they were committed :—

In Custody.	Males.	Females	Employments.	Males.	Females
Felons	30	17	Tread-wheel	26	..
Misdemeanants	2	..	Pumping water	5	..
	32	17	Tailoring	1	..
			Shoemaking	1	..
			Cleaning	6	5
Under Vagrant Act	8	2	Washing	..	4
,, Bastardy ,,	1	..	Sewing and knitting	..	12
,, Game ,,	2	..	Not employed*	..	4
,, Revenue Laws	2	..	Assisting the cook	3	..
,, Larceny Act	3	..	Solitary	2	..
,, Juvenile Offenders' Act	3	..	Labouring	16	..
			Not employed	8	..
Assaults & want of sureties	7	3	Sick	1	..
Other misdemeanors	6	..			
	32	5			
Felons	4	2			
Misdemeanants	1	1			
	5	3		69	25

Total 94, and 2 male debtors = 96.

* Four children with their mothers.

CARLISLE POLICE CELLS.

Carlisle Police Cells.

[Visited November 25, 1850.]

I found the six police cells here in excellent order, clean and well ventilated, and reflecting great credit on Mr. Sabbage, the superintendent.

He says he is allowed to give three meals a-day to prisoners who have no means of their own ; that he has no fixed price for such diet, but charges exactly what it costs.

DURHAM COUNTY.

DURHAM COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

Durham County Gaol and House of Correction.

[Inspected November 1, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

175 male criminals.
30 female ditto.
14 male civil prisoners.

Total . 219

England.

Durham County Gaol and House of Correction.

There were only two complaints, both made by male prisoners: the one was frivolous, the other rather of an unusual character, namely, a prisoner, who had just been re-committed, claiming the right to have the length of his previous confinement added to the term of his present sentence, and to be dieted accordingly!

The total number of committals during the year was 1,825, being 61 less than in 1849.

In my last Report I noticed the important additions and alterations that had been made to the prison buildings in the course of the year, and the hope I entertained that the accommodation still wanting on the male side would soon be supplied.

That hope I am happy to report has now been realized, for an extensive new wing has since been erected for the separate confinement of upwards of 70 prisoners, and will be fit for occupation in the early part of next spring, and at a rate of expense unprecedentedly low, for it is understood that it will not exceed 35*l.* a cell.

The new works going on interfered materially with the employments and order on the male side, but everything seemed as regularly and properly conducted as the nature of circumstances permitted.

The experimental dietary, which I stated in my last Report had been introduced here, has continued to work well; but the governor reports that it has not had the effect that he expected, of deterring vagrants, who continue to be committed nearly in as great numbers as before.

I strongly recommend the crank-machine to be tried experimentally on that class of offenders, for it is proved to have a very deterring effect in other prisons.

The health in the prison seems to have been very good. There had been no prevailing disease, and the surgeon's duties are zealously and efficiently carried out.

I have been favoured by the chaplain, the Rev. G. Hans. Hamilton, with a copy of his Annual Report, which conveys much valuable information, and from which I make a few selections, which were borne out generally by my personal observation.

With reference to the new female prison, he remarks,—

"The result is that contamination is now checked, if not wholly prevented. Criminals are really punished. Nearly all are attentive to instruction, and many are found to make satisfactory progress in the acquirement of the first principles of religion . . . . . and now you have the satisfaction of knowing that a young woman may be committed to Durham Gaol with the prospect that she will not leave it worse than she entered."

With reference to the 36 new sleeping-cells on the male side, as noticed in my last Report, he remarks,—

"The different departments of this prison in former times presented a marked contrast. That on the separate system presented a scene of

quietness, industry, and order, while in the other, prisoners were allowed to associate without distinction of character, and it was frequently a scene of noise, confusion, and worse: now, all is more quiet and orderly. The trial-room system is no more; and since the 36 new sleeping-cells have been occupied, each has a bed to himself. Many male prisoners have, nevertheless, during the past year, slept in large rooms, containing from 3 to 15 each, and here much of the old contaminating system still goes on, for it is to be feared that during these nocturnal associations the run-away apprentice is taught the art of picking pockets, and the pick-pocket is induced to become a burglar."

On the subject of juvenile crime, he remarks that—

"Another year's experience confirms the opinion that many boys ought not to be associated. In this gaol boys are treated exactly as if they were men, and it is pleasing to their precocious vanity; they become familiarized with crime, and gradually think little of its punishment, from seeing their seniors along with them in prison.

"The boys in Durham gaol sit all day in a room calculated to hold 100 prisoners, and which is too frequently filled. They are as mischievous as possible, and give more trouble to the officers than double the number of men. A wicked little urchin will single out some half-witted man, and fling some oakum at his head: the poor fellow roars out as if he had received a mortal injury, and the prisoners are amused."

It is satisfactory to know that such associations here will not long be a necessary evil.

He gives the following summary of the progressive decrease in crime during the last three years, but it is not to such an extent as to be a subject for congratulation:—

	1848	1849	1850
Total number of commitments	2,083	1,886	1,825
Number transported	35	31	27
Natives of the City and County of Durham .	742	642	647

On the subject of these commitments, he remarks—

"They are often men of bad character and dissipated habits, who seek a new residence because they have been driven by their own misconduct from their native place."

Which he states is apparent, from the fact, that while 647 natives of Durham have been sent to prison during the year, there have been 1,178 strangers committed to the same prison.

The chaplain's remarks on the subject of instruction—

"The most pleasing feature in my department of the prison is the marked attention given by nearly every prisoner to the instruction in the chapel and schools. This is partly owing to the system itself by which the prisoners are taught to look upon instruction as a favour and a privilege . . . . . 1,152 prisoners have availed themselves of it; 112 have learned to read the New Testament; 127 have been taught to read easy lessons, and 193 have learned to write, and 542 have

England.

Durham County Gaol and House of Correction.

improved in reading and writing; of this nearly all were destitute when sent to gaol."

The punishments had been numerous owing to the present state of the male prison, but they were not of a serious character, if I except the cases of 7 boys, who had been whipped for prison offences. The punishment is inflicted in the presence of the governor and the surgeon with a cat-o'-nine-tails, and they make it a rule to limit the punishment to the number of years of age of the offender.

The debtors' department is arranged for three separate classes: 1st, those who maintain themselves; 2nd, the poor who are supported by the county rate; 3rd, fraudulent debtors.

The provisions are furnished by contract, the clothing purchased and made up in the prison, and the accounts are settled quarterly.

The following were the employments on the day of inspection:

	Males.		Females.
Weaving and Mat-making	22	Knitting	10
Washing	4	Sewing	7
Cleaning, &c.	9	Washing, &c.	6
Pumping water	18	Teasing rope	6
Masons	2	Sick	1
Joiners	3		
Tailors	2	Total Females	30
Shoemakers	3		
Cutting fuel	2		
Masons' Labourers	55	DEBTORS.	
Breaking stones	2	Not at work	12
Teasing rope	46	At work,—Mason	1
Cooks	3	Ditto—Joiner	1
Infirmary sick	4		
		Total Debtors	14
Total Males	175		

Total Males and Females, 219.

	£.	s.	d.
The average cost of prison dietary during the year	4	5	6¼
Average amount of earnings	3	16	11¼
Average cost per head, including all expenses	15	14	2¼

The foregoing average expenses are highly creditable to the management, for I expect they will prove to be among the lowest of the prisons in England.

I have great pleasure in repeating, as in last Report, the high opinion I entertain of the zeal and ability of the executive officers of this prison, namely, the governor, Mr. Green; the chaplain, Mr. Hamilton; the surgeon, Mr. Shaw, and Miss Johnston, the matron. The governor states that he has reason to be satisfied generally with his subordinate officers, but that there are exceptions, as I found on inquiry, in consequence of their first appointment being permanent instead of experimental.

This is a point which I beg respectfully to recommend to the consideration of the visiting justices, for experience has taught me that a man's character and appearance may be in every respect unexceptionable and promising, and yet on trial he may be found utterly unfit for the situation of warder; it requires at least a two months' trial to prove his fitness.

GATESHEAD LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected November 1, 1850.]

There was one male and one female prisoner in confinement. They made no complaints.

Most of the defects mentioned in my last Report had been corrected; but the windows of the under-ground apartment are still unprovided with iron bars.

Everything looked very clean and in good order.

SOUTH SHIELDS POLICE LOCK-UP.

[Inspected October 31, 1850.]

There were no prisoners in confinement.

The prison buildings were in good repair, and everything very clean.

Covers had been supplied to the water-closets since last inspection.

The superintendent complains of the want of convenience for washing, and as there is sufficient space on which a small wash-house might be erected at little cost, I beg to recommend its being done, for the persons confined there are generally of filthy habits, and sometimes detained for eight days.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY.

MORPETH COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[Inspected July 1, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

67 male criminals.
15 female ditto.
1 male civil prisoner.

Total . . 83

They made no complaints.

The number in confinement during the year was 459 criminal prisoners, being an increase on the previous year of 34. The average daily number has been 94.

England.

Morpeth County Gaol and House of Correction.

The following table, taken from one of the governor's reports, shows the relative countries of which the prisoners were natives:

English.	Irish.	Scotch.	Foreign.
348	129	74	1

The prison buildings appeared all in good order, and every department, as well as the personal appearance the prisoners, very satisfactory, and highly creditable to Mr. Clough, the governor, who has progressively made the following judicious alterations since last inspection, viz.:—

1. The bottom room of tower in debtors' prison, marked A., and previously used as a lumber-room, has been fitted up and appropriated for the confinement of debtors committed to prison under the 8th and 9th Vic., cap. 127.

2. Gaslight has been conducted into the debtors' prison.

3. A mess-room for the officers had been conveniently fitted up in the basement of the central building under the Governor's house.

4. Another room in the basement of central building has been converted into a blacksmiths' shop.

5. A third room in the basement of central building has been converted into a carpenters' shop.

6. A fourth room in the basement of central building has been fitted up as a school-room.

7. By a wooden partition which has been fixed through F. ward, and which is the entrance into the gaol, a very convenient sleeping-room has been gained and fitted up for the warders of the gaol.

8. Another room up stairs in the house of correction, adjoining the debtors' division of the prison, has been similarly constructed, and fitted up for the officers of the house of correction to sleep in.

9. The chapel contains eight compartments, and heretofore had the appearance of eight large cages, from their being enclosed with iron bars, and the entrance was behind. The iron bars have now been removed, and the entrance gained from the front, whereby the accommodation has been increased by 40 seats. The chapel now is very convenient, and admirably suited for its purposes.

10. Three new baths have been fixed to facilitate the monthly bathing, which takes place the first Monday in every month; on which day, immediately before the bathing is commenced, the governor reads the rules and regulations to the whole of the male prisoners assembled on parade.

11. Two large and compact new stock store-rooms have been neatly fitted up; also another store-room, called the working stock store, by means of which an accurate check on all articles issued and in use is kept.

12. The whole of the prison bedding has been re-made and marked with the weight upon the ticking, viz., hammock mattrasses contain 4 lbs. and bedstead mattrasses 24 lbs. coir.

13. A small shelf has been fixed in each cell, on which the hammocks, which are neatly rolled, are placed in the day-time.

14. A small barrel for water, containing six quarts, and which is filled every morning, has been neatly fixed in each cell.

15. Two watch-clocks (one fixed in the house of correction and the other in the gaol) have been purchased at the small cost of 6*l.* each, and a night-watch established, the night-watchman performing no other duty.

16. A door has been opened leading from the house of correction into the debtors' prison, by which the watchman patrols the debtors' prison in the night. This door is opened at 10 o'clock at night, and locked at 6 o'clock in the morning.

17. A large work-shed has been constructed, where the strictest silence reigns, though not unfrequently 60 or 70 prisoners sentenced to hard labour are employed, under the supervision of three officers. About half the number of the prisoners are working at some useful handicraft, whilst the others of short sentences and the vagrant class are employed on the treadwheels. All offenders confined for non-payment of penalties, for drunken brawls, &c., are kept in their cells employed in picking oakum, and it frequently happens after the offender has been confined a few days, that he applies to his friends to pay the fine.

18. The staff has been increased from four to six warders. There are now three to the gaol and three to the house of correction.

19. An assistant-matron has been appointed, whose duty also is to clean the matron's apartments, by which appointment no prisoners are employed as heretofore in the domestic arrangements of the matron.

There had been two deaths in the course of the year from consumption, but the general health had been good, and free from any prevailing disease. The surgeon's duties had been regularly performed, as were also those of the chaplain.

The services of the schoolmaster had been discontinued since April last, and the duty is now performed by the senior warden of the prison; the average attendance given to instruction being 2¾ hours daily. The books in the library were not in good order, being most of them dirty and defaced.

The governor reports that the general conduct has been good.

The chief employments are—

The tread-wheel,	Rug-making,
Tailoring,	Cotton, linen, and woollen-weaving,
Shoe-making,	Washing,
Blacksmiths' work,	Picking oakum, and working in the prison-grounds.
Carpentering,	
Mat-making,	

The prison stores are all supplied by contract, and the accounts are settled quarterly.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
The average cost of prison dietary per head has been	4	16	5¾
Average amount of earnings . . .	2	17	3½
Cost per head, including all expenses, and including three pensioners . . .	23	11	8½

England.

Morpeth County Gaol and House of Correction.

The governor, Mr. Clough, seems remarkably well qualified for his duties; and he expresses himself well satisfied with the matron and his subordinate officers.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Borough Prison.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE BOROUGH PRISON

[Inspected October 31, and November 1, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

75 male criminals.
41 female ditto.
6 civil male prisoners.

Total . 122

There were several complaints, but none requiring notice.

The number in confinement during the year was 873, being 145 less than in 1849. The average daily number, however, 116, is only 10 less than the previous year.

The prison buildings were in good repair; and the different wards and cells clean, as well as the personal appearance of the prisoners.

The general health had been good, though there had been two deaths; the one a debtor, who died of old age (82 years), and the other a man who had been eight months in prison, with his constitution previously destroyed by intemperance. The surgeon's duties appear to be very regularly and zealously carried out.

There had been several attempts at escape; in one instance four prisoners succeeded in getting over the wall, but they were all quickly recaptured.

There had been no alteration in the chaplain's duties. A new teacher has been appointed since last inspection, of whose services the governor speaks favourably.

I visited the prison on the 31st of May last, for the purpose of inspecting 14 rooms, formerly called sick-rooms, which had now been prepared for separate confinement; and having found them fitted up according to the provisions of the Act 2 and 3 Vict., c. 56, I gave the usual certificate.

There has been no other alteration in the prison buildings, so that the evils formerly reported still continue to exist to a greater or less extent, according to the numbers in confinement.

A manifest improvement, however, has taken place in the management of the prison, in consequence of the prisoners not being permitted to be congregated in such numbers at their employments as formerly. There were very few in the stone-yard, and wherever numbers of prisoners were seen together, they were under a better system of classification, and better discipline than before.

The female prison, which formerly seemed to be in one continu-

ous state of disorder, has, under the present matron, been brought to a respectable degree of discipline and order.

I am glad to find that the Prison Committee are entertaining plans for making such alterations as the defective state of the prison buildings require.

A new scale of experimental dietary (see Appendix) was, by the authority of the Secretary of State, introduced in July last, and though, as the governor remarks, it is less liberal in some respects than the one formerly in use, yet in the aggregate it is more liberal, and is attended with an increase of expense. The average daily cost of prison dietary per head, during the year 1849, was 6*l.* 14*s.* 4¼*d.* This year, while almost every other prison in the district has decreased, that of Newcastle had risen to 6*l.* 16*s.* 1½*d.*

With the county prison of Durham on the one side, and Morpeth on the other, the average cost of diet in the former being only 4*l.* 5*s.* 6½*d.*, and in the latter 4*l.* 16*s.* 5¾*d.*, it seems well worth the consideration of the authorities of Newcastle, whether the dietary of one or other of these prisons may not with advantage be adopted there; for the others are equally healthy, and as they are but a few miles distant from Newcastle, it may be presumed that there cannot be much difference in the physical habits of the prisoners.

The governor in a late Report, subsequent to my visit, states, that not only has the usual health been maintained under the present diet, but the weight of the prisoners in general is increased, which would argue that it is now unnecessarily liberal.

The following were the employments on the day of inspection:—

	Males.	Females.
Under punishment by visiting justices	4	..
Sick	4	2
Attending a sick female	..	1
Cleaning the prisons	10	1
Washing	2	3
Cutting wood	1	..
Joiners	1	..
Tailoring	4	..
Shoemaking	2	..
Teasing oakum and hair	25	10
Breaking stones	22	..
Cooking	..	2
Knitting	..	5
Sewing	..	12
Mending and darning	..	4
Total	75	40

(And 6 male debtors.)

I continue to be well pleased with the zeal and ability of Mr. Thompson, the governor; and he reports favourably of his subor-

England.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Borough Prison.

dinate officers. Mrs. Rooney, the matron, has also shown herself peculiarly well qualified for her situation, and she is ably assisted by the female warders.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Moothall County Gaol.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.
MOOTHALL COUNTY GAOL.

[Inspected November 1, 1850.]

There were no prisoners in confinement.

The buildings were in good order, and everything very clean.

As mentioned in my last Report, it is seldom used as a place of confinement except for a single day prior to trial, and on such occasions the keeper is allowed 4*d.* a-day for each prisoner to supply them with food.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Police Cells.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE POLICE CELLS.

[Inspected November 1, 1850.]

These cells were not in the wholesome state I found them in on previous visits; and on pointing out to the policeman the objectionable condition of the floor as well as the walls of one of the cells, he remarked very truly that these things were often the work of a single night; but the heavy cobwebs in the corners of the cell darkened with dust, told that they were not of yesterday's growth.

Hexham County Gaol and House of Correction.

HEXHAM COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[Inspected October 30, 1850.]

There were no prisoners in confinement.

The number of prisoners committed during the year was 49, being 17 less than in 1849.

The prison buildings were in good repair, and every department clean and creditable to the management.

The health had been very good, and there had been no punishments since last inspection.

The chief employment here is beating sand.

The average cost of prison dietary is reported to be 6*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*

The keeper and the matron, Mr. and Mrs. McPherson, seem well qualified for their duties.

Alnwick Prison and House of Correction.

ALNWICK PRISON AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[Inspected July 4, 1850.]

There was only one male prisoner, and he seemed an imbecile.

The number in confinement during the year was 28, being 45 less than in 1849.

The buildings were in good order, and every department very clean and creditable to the management.

The health of the prisoners had been very good, only three cases of sickness recorded. The book in which the surgeon's visits are entered has not been regularly filled up since May, 1849; but the keeper stated that his visits had been regular.

There is no chaplain, but a clergyman calls whenever a prisoner expresses a wish to see him. The keeper reads prayers on Sundays.

The general conduct of the prisoners was reported to be good, but there was no punishment book, which I recommend should be supplied.

The only employment here is beating sand. The stone, which costs 17*s.*, when reduced to sand, sells for 1*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

In a statement received subsequent to my visit, the keeper quotes the average cost per head for prison dietary during the year ending Michaelmas 1850, at 5*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, and the average earnings at 3*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*

The keeper, Mr. Nichol, appears well qualified for his duties.

TYNEMOUTH HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[Inspected October 31, 1850.]

Present in confinement—two males for trial. They had only been committed the night before, and were in the same cell, but as usual on my visits to this prison, I found their cell door open, which gave them the free range of the prison, contrary to every rule.

The number in confinement during the year was 334, being 103 more than in 1849.

The prison buildings were in good repair, and the different wards clean. The bedding, however, did not appear so cleanly as it ought to be, nor so neatly arranged.

The general health had been good, and the surgeon's visits regular.

There is no chaplain, nor is there any instruction given, but the library contains a few books for the use of prisoners.

There had been no punishments since last inspection.

The governor was only holding office until a successor was appointed. As formerly reported, he has been allowed 4*d.* per day to supply the food; but as this system is contrary to the provisions of the 21st Rule for the Government of the Prisons of England, I hope that an altered arrangement will be made with his successor.

I hope also to find on my next visit that the books required by the Regulations have been provided, for without them the visits of magistrates as well as Inspectors are useless.

England.

North Shields Lock-up House.

NORTH SHIELDS LOCK-UP HOUSE.

[Inspected October 31, 1850.]

There were no prisoners in confinement.

The prison buildings were in good repair, and everything very clean; but the supply of water to the closets is defective, and ought to be looked to.

The superintendent is allowed 4*d.* a-meal, to supply two meals a-day to each prisoner.

Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Gaol and House of Correction.

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[Inspected November 2, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

9 males.
4 females.

Total . . 13

They made no complaints.

The prison buildings were in good repair, and every department clean and in good order.

The number in confinement during the year was 92, being 19 more than in 1849.

The health had been generally good, and the surgeon's duties regularly performed.

The chaplain keeps no book in the prison. The governor states that the chaplain's duties consist in visiting the prison on Sundays, when he reads prayers and preaches, and afterwards sees in their separate cells such prisoners as are confined for periods not exceeding three months. The library is in a bad state, and a fresh supply of books much needed.

The punishments have been few and trifling.

The chief employments are—

Teasing oakum,
Carpentering,
Tailoring, &c.

The prison stores are purchased at the best market; the accounts are settled quarterly, and vouchers produced.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Average cost per head of prison dietary . .	5	1	10
Average amount of earnings	1	13	2¼
Cost per head, including all expenses . .	26	4	5½

The defects shown in my last Report in the construction and arrangements of this prison were, at the time of my visit, still under the consideration of the visiting magistrates, who showed every desire to correct the evil as far as circumstances would permit.

The keeper and the matron seem zealous and well-qualified for their duties.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY.

England.

Appelby County Gaol and House of Correction.

APPLEBY COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

[Inspected October 29, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

16 male criminals.
6 female ditto.
1 male civil prisoner.

Total . . 23

They made no complaints.

The number in custody during the year was 104.

The prison buildings were in good repair.

At the time of my visit, the only three executive officers belonging to the prison, viz., the governor, the matron, and the male warder were merely holding office by sufferance until their successors were appointed. The governor had resigned, and the other two were under sentence of dismissal; and as the clerk of the peace was absent from town, the information at my disposal was limited and unsatisfactory.

Two male prisoners had recently escaped, one of them under circumstances in which the character of the matron was said to be seriously implicated, and it seemed singular that she should have been permitted to retain her place afterwards for a single hour.

I was also surprised to find that a debtor in confinement was allowed to eat and sleep in the house of the governor, who said he was authorised to do so by one of the magistrates; but he could show me no written authority, nor could he remember the name of the magistrate who had given such permission.

The general health in the prison appears to have been good, and the surgeon's duties regularly attended to, as were also those of the chaplain.

This is a very unsatisfactory prison, for with a great mass of substantial buildings and abundance of room within the walls, there is scarcely anything where it should be, but all so ingeniously misplaced or misconstructed as if purposely intended to defeat the objects of imprisonment.

I should be glad if the county magistrates would entertain the question of some altered arrangements, for with the room and the materials at their disposal, a proper number of efficient cells for the separate confinement of the number of male prisoners usually in custody might be had at a very trifling expense; and until some alterations are made, the prison cannot be considered as anything better than a house of detention of a bad class.

The provisions are furnished by contract, and the clothing and bedding purchased. The accounts are settled quarterly, and the book signed by the chairman of the county magistrates.

England.

Appleby County Gaol and House of Correction.

	£.	s.	d.
Average cost of prison diet . . .	4	15	8¼
Average cost of clothing and bedding . .	1	12	0¼
Average cost, including all expenses . .	23	19	2

The different cells, as well as the clothing and bedding, looked clean and in good order.

Kendal House of Correction and Borough Gaol.

KENDAL HOUSE OF CORRECTION AND BOROUGH GAOL.

[Inspected October 28, 1850.]

Present in confinement:—

20 male criminals.
2 female ditto.

22

They made no complaints.

The number in confinement during the year was 172, being 72 less than in 1849. The greatest number at one time amounted to 38, and the least number to 5.

I found the prison buildings in good order, and the different wards, as well as the personal appearance of the prisoners, clean.

On entering the front yard I found the outer gate open, and a cart standing outside, with some sacks of corn or malt. A male prisoner stood within a few feet of the open door, while the turnkey was out of sight within the prison. Had the prisoner chosen to make his escape, which it is probable my entrance at the moment prevented, he could have had little difficulty in doing so. An officer who understands his duty will never trust to such chances.

The general health appears to have been very good, and the surgeon's duties regularly carried out.

There had been no alteration in the duties of the chaplain or the teacher, and the progress made in reading, writing, and arithmetic by many of the prisoners was shown to be very satisfactory.

The governor stated that the general conduct had been good; and I observed that the punishments recorded were neither numerous nor of a serious character.

The employments on the day of inspection were,—

Wool-picking and opening fibre . .	6
Mat-making	3
At the wheel	4
Cook	1
Sick	1
Solitary	5
Females	2
	22

The provisions and bedding are furnished by contract; the materials for clothing purchased and made up in the prison. The accounts are settled quarterly, and regularly entered and vouched by the magistrates.

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
The average cost of prison dietary per head, during the year, has been	5	12	4¾
Average amount of earnings	3	0	8
Annual cost per head, including all expenses,	22	1	8

I continue to entertain a very favourable opinion of the zeal and ability of Mr. Fawcett, the governor. Though my visit was at an early hour in the morning, I found every department in the best possible order.

This prison, like that at Appleby, is very faulty in the construction, and in its arrangements, especially in the working departments; and were it not under good management, the results of imprisonment in it must prove very unsatisfactory.

PENRITH TOWN GAOL LOCK-UP.

[Inspected October 30, 1850.]

There was one prisoner, only just admitted.

There had been no alterations of any kind since last inspection. Everything looked clean and creditable to the keeper.

Appendix No. 1.

CARLISLE GAOL.—DIETARIES.

Class I.

Convicted Prisoners for any term not exceeding Seven Days.

Males and Females.

Breakfast . . 6 oz. of bread.
Dinner . . . 6 oz. of bread.
Supper . . . 6 oz. of bread.

Class II.

Convicted Prisoners for any term exceeding Seven Days, and not exceeding Fourteen Days.

Males and Females.

Breakfast . . 1 gill of milk, and 4 oz. of oatmeal for porridge
Dinner . . . 4 oz. of bread.
Supper . . . 1 gill of milk, and 4 oz. of oatmeal for porridge.

Class III.

Convicted Prisoners employed at Hard Labour, for terms exceeding Fourteen Days, but not more than Six Weeks; and Convicted Prisoners not employed at Hard Labour, for terms exceeding Fourteen Days, and not more than Three Months.

Males and Females.

Breakfast . . . . . 1 gill of milk and 4 oz. of oatmeal porridge.
Dinner:—
Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday . 1 pint of soup and 6 oz. of bread.
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday . 1 lb. of potatoes and 6 oz. of bread.
Sunday . . . . . 1½ gill of milk and 6 oz. of bread.
Supper . . . . . The same as breakfast.

Class IV.

Convicted Prisoners employed at Hard Labour for terms exceeding Six Weeks, but not more than Three Months; and Convicted Prisoners not employed at Hard Labour, for terms exceeding Three Months.

	Males.	*Females.*
Breakfast	1 gill of milk and 5 oz. of oatmeal for porridge	1 gill of milk and 4 oz. of oatmeal for porridge.
Dinner:—		
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday	1 pint of soup and 6 oz. of bread.	
Tuesday and Thursday .	3 oz. of uncooked meat, ½ lb. of potatoes, and 6 oz. of bread.	
Saturday	1 lb. of potatoes and 6 oz. of bread.	
Sunday	1½ gill of milk and 6 oz. of bread.	
Supper	The same as breakfast.	

Class V.

Convicted Prisoners employed at Hard Labour, for terms exceeding Three Months.

	Males.	*Females.*
Breakfast	1 gill of milk and 5 oz. of oatmeal for porridge	1 gill of milk, and 4 oz. of oatmeal for porridge.

Dinner:—
Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday . . . . . 4 oz. of uncooked meat, 4 oz. of bread, and 1 lb. of potatoes.
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday . . . . . 1 pint of soup, 4 oz. of bread, and 1 lb. of potatoes.
Sunday . . . . . 1½ gill of milk and 6 oz. of bread.
Supper . . . . . The same as breakfast.

CLASS VI.

Prisoners Sentenced by Court to Solitary Confinement.

Males and Females.

The ordinary Diet of their classs.

CLASS VII.

Prisoners for Examination before Trial; and Misdemeanants of the First Division, who do not Maintain themselves.

Males and Females.

The same as Class IV.

CLASS VIII.

Destitute Debtors.

Males and Females.

The same as class IV.

CLASS IX.

Prisoners under Punishment for Prison Offences, for terms not exceeding Three Days.

1 lb. of bread per day.

CLASS X.

Prisoners in Close Confinement for Prison Offences, under the provisions of the 42nd section of the Gaol Act.

Males and Females.

Breakfast . 1 gill of milk and 4 oz. of oatmeal for porridge.
Dinner . . 4 oz. of bread.
Supper . . The same as breakfast.

NOTE.—Ingredients for soup: 3 oz. of uncooked meat, without bone; 3 oz. of potatoes; 1 oz. of barley, rice, or oatmeal; and 1 oz. of onions or leeks, with pepper and salt; for 1 pint of soup.

Whitehall, 28th February, 1849.

The foregoing dietary, for the County Gaol at Carlisle, I hereby certify as proper to be adopted.

G. GREY.

APPENDIX No. 2.

CLASS I.

Convicted Prisoners not exceeding Seven Days.

	Male.	*Female.*
Breakfast and Supper.	1 pint of porridge . . .	1 pint of porridge.
Dinner	1 lb. of bread	1 lb. of bread.

Class II.

Convicted Prisoners exceeding Seven Days, and not exceeding Twenty-one Days.

	Male.	*Female.*
Breakfast and Supper.	1 pint of porridge . . .	1 pint of porridge.
Dinner.	12 oz. of bread, and 8 oz. of potatoes	6 oz. of bread, and 8 oz. of potatoes.
	1 pint of soup per week, if at hard labour.	1 pint of soup per week, if at hard labour.

Class III.

Convicted Prisoners exceeding Twenty-one Days, and not exceeding Six Weeks to Hard Labour; and Prisoners not at Hard Labour, exceeding Twenty-one Days, and not more than Four Months.

	Male.	*Female.*
Breakfast and Supper.	1 pint of porridge . . .	1 pint of porridge.
Dinner :—		
Sunday	3 oz. of cooked meat without bone, 8 oz. of bread, and 8 oz. of potatoes . . .	3 oz. of cooked meat without bone, 6 oz. of bread, and 8 oz. of potatoes.
Thursday . . .	1 lb. of suet pudding . .	1 lb. of suet pudding.
Tuesday and Saturday . . .	3 oz. of cooked meat without bone, 8 oz. of bread, and 8 oz. of potatoes . . .	3 oz. of cooked meat without bone, 6 oz. of bread, and 8 oz. of potatoes.
Monday. . . .	8 oz. of bread, 1 lb. of potatoes	6 oz. of bread, 1 lb. of potatoes.
Wednesday. . .	1 pint of soup, 8 oz. of bread .	1 pint of soup, 6 oz. of bread.
Friday	8 oz. of bread, 1 lb. of potatoes	6 oz. of bread, 1lb. of potatoes.

Note.—The soup to contain, per pint, 3 ounces of cooked meat without bone, 3 ounces of potatoes, one ounce of barley, rice, or oatmeal, and one ounce of onions or leeks, with pepper and salt. The porridge to contain 6 ounces of oatmeal, with milk or treacle water.

Class IV.

Exceeding Six Weeks, and not exceeding Four Months Hard Labour. VI. Convicted Prisoners not at Hard Labour, exceeding Four Months. VII. Sentenced by Court to Solitary Confinement. VIII. Examination or Trial. IX. Destitute Debtors, and Debtors Committed under the 8th and 9th Vic., cap. 127. And Misdemeanants of the first Division, who do not maintain themselves.

	Male.	*Female.*
Breakfast and Supper.	1 pint of porridge . . .	1 pint of porridge.
Dinner :—		
Sunday . . . . Tuesday and Saturday . . .	3 oz. of cooked meat without bone, 8 oz. of potatoes, and 8 oz. of bread	3 oz. of cooked meat without bone, 8 oz. of potatoes, and 6 oz. of bread.
Thursday . . .	1 lb. of suet pudding. . .	1 lb. of suet pudding.
Monday. . . . Wednesday and Friday . . .	1 pint of soup, 8 oz. of bread.	1 pint of soup, 6 oz. bread.

Class V.

Prisoners at Hard Labour, exceeding Four Months.

	Male.	*Female.*
Breakfast and Supper.	1 pint of porridge . . .	1 pint of porridge.
Dinner :—		
Sunday . . . . Tuesday and Saturday . . .	4 oz. of cooked meat without bone, 1 lb. of potatoes, and 6 oz. of bread	3 oz. of cooked meat without bone, 8 oz. of potatoes, and 6 oz. of bread.
Thursday . . .	1 lb. of suet pudding. . .	1 lb. of suet pudding.
Monday . . . Wednesday and Friday . . .	1 pint of soup, 1 lb. of potatoes, and 6 oz. of bread .	1 pint of soup, 8 oz. of potatoes, and 6 oz. of bread.

Class X.

Punishment Diet, 42nd Section Gaol Act.

	Male.	*Female.*
Not exceeding 3 days	1 lb. of bread per day . .	1 lb. of bread per day.

DEBTORS.

	Male.	*Female.*
Breakfast and Supper.	1 pint of porridge . . .	1 pint of porridge.
Dinner:—		
Monday . . .	1 pint of soup, 8 oz. of bread	1 pint of soup, 6 oz. of bread.
Wednesday and Friday . . .		
Thursday . . .	1 lb. of suet pudding. . .	1 lb. of suet pudding.
Sunday . . .	3 oz. of cooked meat without bone, 8 oz. of potatoes, and 8 oz. of bread	3 oz. of cooked meat without bone, 8 oz. of potatoes, and 6 oz. of bread.
Tuesday . . .		
Saturday . . .		

NOTE.—The porridge to contain 6 oz. of oatmeal, with milk or treacle water.

APPENDIX No. 3.

AMENDED TABLE OF DIETARIES FOR PRISONERS, IN THE GAOL AT NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

The following are the prescribed Rates of Diet:—

CLASS I.

Males and Females.

Breakfast . Oatmeal gruel, 1 pint.
Dinner . . Bread, 1 lb.
Supper . . Oatmeal gruel, 1 pint.

CLASS II.

Convicted Prisoners for any term exceeding Seven Days, and not exceeding One Calendar Month.

	Males.	*Females.*
Breakfast .	Oatmeal gruel, 1 pint; bread, 6 oz. .	Oatmeal gruel, 1 pint; bread, 6 oz.
Dinner. .	Bread, 12 oz.	Bread, 12 oz.
Supper. .	Oatmeal gruel, 1 pint; bread, 6 oz. .	Oatmeal gruel, 1 pint; bread, 6 oz.

Prisoners of this class employed at hard labour to have, in addition, 1 pint of soup per week.

CLASS III.

Convicted Prisoners employed at Hard Labour for terms exceeding One Calendar Month, but not more than Two Calendar Months; and Convicted Prisoners not employed at Hard Labour for terms exceeding One Calendar Month, but not more than Four Calendar Months.

	Males.	*Females.*
Breakfast .	Oatmeal gruel, 1 pint; bread, 6 oz. .	Oatmeal gruel, 1 pint; bread, 6 oz.
	Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday:	
Dinner .	Soup, 1 pint; bread, 8 oz. . . .	Soup, 1 pint; bread, 6 oz.
	Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday:	
Dinner. .	Bread, 8 oz.; potatoes, 1 lb. . .	Bread, 6 oz.; potatoes, 1 lb.
Supper. .	Same as breakfast	Same as breakfast.

CLASS IV.

Convicted Prisoners employed at Hard Labour for terms exceeding Two Calendar Months, but not more than Four Months; and Convicted Prisoners not employed at Hard Labour, for terms exceeding Four Months.

	Males.	*Females.*
Breakfast .	Oatmeal gruel, 1 pint; bread, 8 oz. .	Oatmeal gruel, 1 pint; bread, 6 oz.
	Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday:	
Dinner. .	Cooked meat, without bone, 3 oz.; potatoes, ½ lb.; bread, 6 oz. . .	Cooked meat, without bone, 3 oz.; potatoes, ½ lb.; bread, 4 oz.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday:

Dinner.	Soup, 1 pint; bread, 8 oz.	Soup, 1 pint; bread, 6 oz.
Supper.	Same as breakfast	Same as breakfast.

CLASS V.

Convicted Prisoners employed at Hard Labour for terms exceeding Four Months.

	Males.	*Females.*
	Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday:	
Breakfast	Oatmeal gruel, 1 pint; bread, 8 oz.	Oatmeal gruel, 1 pint; bread, 6 oz.
Dinner.	Cooked meat, without bone, 4 oz.; potatoes, 1 lb.; bread, 6 oz.	Cooked meat, without bone, 3 oz. potatoes, ½ lb.; bread, 6 oz.
	Monday, Wednesday, and Friday:	
Breakfast	Cocoa, 1 pint; made of ¾ oz. of flaked cocoa, or cocoa nibs, sweetened with ¾ oz. of molasses or sugar; bread, 8 oz.	Cocoa, 1 pint; made of ¾ oz. of flaked cocoa, or cocoa nibs, sweetened with ¾ oz. of molasses or sugar; bread, 6 oz.
Dinner.	Soup, 1 pint; potatoes, 1 lb.; bread, 6 oz.	Soup, 1 pint; potatoes, ½ lb.; bread, 6 oz.
Supper.	Oatmeal gruel, 1 pint; bread, 8 oz.	Oatmeal gruel, 1 pint; bread, 6 oz.

CLASS VI.

Prisoners sentenced by Court to Solitary Confinement.

Males and Females.

The ordinary diet of their respective classes.

CLASS VII.

Prisoners for Examination, before Trial, and Misdemeanants of the First Division, who do not maintain themselves.

Males and Females.

The same as Class IV.

CLASS VIII.

Destitute Debtors.

Males and Females.

The same as Class IV.

CLASS IX.

Prisoners under Punishment for Prison Offences, for terms not exceeding Three Days.

1 lb. of bread per diem.

Prisoners in Close Confinement for Prison Offences, under the Provision of the 42nd section of the Gaol Act.

	Males.	*Females.*
Breakfast	Gruel, 1 pint; bread, 8 oz.	Gruel, 1 pint; bread, 6 oz.
Dinner.	Bread, 8 oz.	Bread, 6 oz.
Supper.	Gruel, 1 pint; bread, 8 oz.	Gruel, 1 pint; bread, 6 oz.

NOTE.—The soup to contain, per pint, 3 oz. of meat; 3 oz. of potatoes; 1 oz. of barley, rice, or oatmeal; ½ oz. of peas; and 1 oz. of onions or leeks; with pepper and salt. The gruel to contain 4 oz. of oatmeal per pint. The gruel to be seasoned with salt, and on alternate days to be sweetened with ¾ oz. of molasses. In seasons when the potatoe crop has failed, 4 oz. of split peas made into a pudding may be occasionally substituted; but the change must not be made more than twice in each week.

Boys under 14 years of age to be placed on the same diet as females.

I hereby certify the foregoing dietary as proper to be adopted in the Gaol at Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Whitehall, 6th May, 1850. G. GREY.

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